

Ex Libris
C. K. OGDEN

Brougham

THE HISTORY OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC
OF 1832 IN SHEFFIELD.

To C. Dolman
with kind regards from John Stokes

THE HISTORY OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC OF 1832 IN SHEFFIELD

BY

JOHN STOKES,

M.A., M.D., LL.B., B.Sc.

SHEFFIELD :

J. W. NORTHEND LTD., PRINTERS, WEST STREET.

1921.

CONTENTS.

I. INTRODUCTORY—NATURE AND SPREAD OF CHOLERA	1
II. LOCAL GOVERNMENT—GENERAL AND LOCAL	6
III. SHEFFIELD IN 1832—ITS WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY STATE, AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION	11
IV. CHOLERA IN SHEFFIELD—EARLY STAGES	15
V. LATER STAGES AND CONCLUSION	35
VI. WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENCE	53
VII. EXTRACTS FROM VESTRY MINUTE BOOKS	61
VIII. THE SHEFFIELD NEWSPAPERS	83
IX. APPENDIX I—CHOLERA ACT	154
„ II—HISTORY OF SHEFFIELD	169
„ III—PEEPS INTO THE PAST	181

PREFACE.

THIS contribution to the local history of Sheffield was ready for printing in 1914. The events of that and the subsequent years have delayed its publication until now.

The story has been told chiefly by means of extracts from contemporary documents (for the vagaries of spelling in these I am not responsible).

I have to express my thanks to (1) the Clerk to the Privy Council for the ready courtesy with which he gave the requisite permission to inspect and make extracts from the valuable records at Whitehall; (2) the authorities of the British Museum; (3) Mr. Geo. H. Wilkinson, in whose charge are the old vestry books—a mine of interesting information; (4) many friends for advice and assistance; and lastly (5) to my Publisher, Mr. J. W. Northend, for much valuable assistance.

J. S.

CHAPTER II

THEORY

The first part of the theory of the present chapter is devoted to the study of the properties of the function $f(x)$ which is defined by the equation $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$. The second part is devoted to the study of the properties of the function $f(x)$ which is defined by the equation $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$. The third part is devoted to the study of the properties of the function $f(x)$ which is defined by the equation $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^3}$.

The first part of the theory of the present chapter is devoted to the study of the properties of the function $f(x)$ which is defined by the equation $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$. The second part is devoted to the study of the properties of the function $f(x)$ which is defined by the equation $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$. The third part is devoted to the study of the properties of the function $f(x)$ which is defined by the equation $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^3}$.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC OF 1832 IN SHEFFIELD.

I.

INTRODUCTORY: THE NATURE OF CHOLERA— ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN ENGLAND.

CHOLERA ASIATICA always exists in India. Every now and then the outbreaks become very severe and the disease diffuses itself along the trade routes. "It rises and falls and travels." There was a severe outburst in Bengal in 1817, but it was not until 1829 that Europe was invaded.

*"From a study of the march of these various epidemics, it is to be concluded that Cholera reaches Europe by three distinct routes:—*First*, viâ Afghanistan, Persia, the Caspian Sea, and the Volga Valley; *second*, viâ the Persian Gulf, Syria, Asia Minor, Turkey in Europe, and the Mediterranean; and *third*, viâ the Red Sea, Egypt, and the Mediterranean."

The epidemic of 1829 came by the Central Asian route, through Afghanistan and Persia as far as Nijni-Novgorod; in 1830 the disease travelled through Persia and on to Southern Russia; in 1831 North and Central Europe were involved. England remained free until October, 1831, when the first fatal case occurred at Sunderland, from which town the Cholera spread over the British Isles. It did not reach Sheffield until June 14th, 1832. Its belated appearance here was probably due to the town being situated away from the main routes of traffic.

* Manson, "Tropical Diseases," p. 345

America was attacked in 1832, France, Spain, and Portugal in 1833, Italy and North Africa in 1834. The disease lingered in Europe until 1839.

The first mention of the appearance in Europe of the Cholera Morbus, or Asiatic Cholera, occurs in the Greville Memoirs, under the date of November 11th, 1830:

"Yesterday came a letter from Lord Heytesbury, from St. Petersburg, saying that there was reason to believe that the disorder now raging in Russia is a sort of plague, but that they will not admit it, and that it is impossible to get at the truth. We ordered Russian ships to be put under a precautionary quarantine, and made a minute to record what we had done."

In England the Privy Council, in its administrative capacity, was responsible for the measures to be taken to deal with the epidemic. The one and only idea of the time in dealing with anything of this sort was to institute a quarantine. This might have done some good if it had been strictly carried out, but in practice it was neither properly undertaken nor effectively enforced. The public frame of mind was that "Government ought to be impeached if the disease comes here." It was therefore necessary to satisfy the conscience of the intelligent citizen by showing him that the Government was doing something. So an Order in Council was issued on June 8th, 1831, establishing quarantine. Greville's Note of July 8th, 1831, amply sums up the prevalent opinions:

"People are beginning to recover from their terror of the Cholera, seeing that it does not come, and we are now beset with alarms of a different kind, which are those of the Scotch merchants for their cargoes. We have a most disagreeable business on our hands, very troublesome, odious, and expensive. The public requires that we should take care of its health, the mercantile world that we should not injure their trade. All evidence proves that goods are not capable of bringing in the disorder, which is contagionist; but we have appointed a Board of Health, and we can't get them to subscribe to that opinion. We

dare not act without its sanction, and so we are obliged to air goods. This airing requires more ships and lazarets than we have, and the result is a perpetual squabbling, disputing, and complaining between the Privy Council, the Admiralty, the Board of Health, and the merchants. We have gone on pretty well hitherto, but more ships arrive every day; the complaints grow louder, and the disease rather spreads than diminishes on the Continent. This Cholera has afforded strong proof of the partiality of the Russians in the contest between the Russians and Poles."

A Central Board of Health was formed on June 21st, 1831. This met and made records during the whole period of the epidemic. It did not open its proceedings very auspiciously. Sir Henry Hallford, who was "desired to associate with himself some other practitioners and report," got into great trouble with the College of Physicians because he issued a Report of his own without consulting the College, most of whose members disagreed with his theories and were very much opposed to his conclusions.

The true nature of Cholera was unknown at that time, and the most fantastic hypotheses were advanced as to its origin, spread, and treatment. It must be remembered that the idea that any disease might be due to a specific bacillus capable of being identified had not arisen at this period. Hence the confusion that naturally took place in men's minds in regard to the nature and source of contagion and infection, though various vague notions of "miasma" were advocated by some of the more advanced thinkers.

The modern theory is that the cause of Cholera is a special germ, known as Koch's Comma Bacillus, which was discovered in Egypt in 1883. Cholera cannot be caught by contact. All the evidence shows that the infection must be swallowed to take effect. "The great, the persistent, and the almost universal mode by which the Cholera germ gains access to the body is in the drinking water."

The records of the Central Board of Health are full of communications from all sorts and conditions of men recommending every possible and many impossible methods for

the discovery of the nature of Cholera, its treatment, prevention, and cure.* A letter from Sheffield advocating treatment by oxygen is recorded. A polite reply was sent stating that this treatment had been brought before the Privy Council and found to be ineffectual.

†The Act dated February 20th, 1832, "for the prevention as far as may be possible of the Disease called the Cholera, or Spasmodic or Indian Cholera, in England," empowered the Privy Council to issue orders at any time, and to make such rules and regulations as were thought necessary to prevent the spread of the disease, and to relieve any person suffering from it. The Act also ordained fines and penalties for the violation or infringement of any Order in Council, and laid down the procedure to be adopted in order to enforce such penalties. Any sums of money so obtained were to be applied towards the relief of the poor of the parish or place where the offence had been committed. The Act empowered one Justice of the Peace in the district concerned to order payment of moneys for the purpose of the Act, *e.g.* in Sheffield the †Rev. W. Alderson signed the order on the Guardians of the Poor of the Sheffield Parish.

Furthermore, by this Act, letters and parcels from London to places in the United Kingdom which had relation to the work of the Privy Council in this matter were exempted "from the Duty of Postage" during the continuance of the epidemic.

The Act was to continue in force until December 31st, 1832, and "from thence until the end of the then next session of Parliament."

The Privy Council at once proceeded to put into force the wide powers given by the Act, and on February 22nd, 1832, revoked the Order in Council of June 8th, 1831, which imposed quarantine on the mercantile marine. This attempt at quarantine had not been very successful, and had been bitterly objected to by the shipowners and merchants, who saw their trade considerably hampered by many vexatious and obnoxious regulations which they were glad to be rid of.

*See p. 54.

†See p. 154.

‡The Rev. William Alderson was Rector of Aston and J.P. for the West Riding of Yorkshire. He died in 1852 in his 80th year.

On February 29th, 1832, the Privy Council issued an Order that all local Boards of Health—which had been previously constituted under the friendly supervision of the Central Board—should continue to exercise their respective duties and should act in accordance with such regulations as might be prescribed and directed by Order in Council. It was also ordered that every practitioner of medicine in any infected area should send a daily report of the condition of all his cholera cases or those affected “with any other disease anywise resembling the same,” and imposing penalties for neglect or omission to make this return. This provision for the notification of infectious disease by the medical practitioner in attendance was a very wise one, but the benefits attending it were soon forgotten, and it was not until The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889, originally adoptive, now compulsory by virtue of The Infectious Disease (Notification) Extension Act 1899, that the principle was recognized and made compulsory in certain diseases. The modern tendency is towards the fuller notification of any disease the existence of which may become a source of danger to the community, *e.g.* in Sheffield the notification of phthisis has been made obligatory by a local Act—The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1912. It has been well said that “It was of little use to give power to order a house to be disinfected and infected clothing to be burned, if there were no means of knowing in which house infection was rife.”

On July 19th, 1832, an Order in Council was made authorizing the payment out of the parish funds, &c., of expenses incurred in carrying into effect any Order relating to Cholera. This Order gave the Local Boards of Health extensive powers for the purchase and provision of medicines, medical assistance, nurses, &c.; for carrying into effect various sanitary improvements, *e.g.* the removal of nuisances and cleaning of drains; for providing burial grounds and the payment of funeral expenses; and for the appointment of medical inspectors with very wide powers.*

Our Public Health Authorities at the present day to some extent are invested with similar powers which might be amplified with benefit to the State as a whole.

*The same day an Order in similar terms was made applying to Scotland.

II.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT—GENERAL AND LOCAL.

In 1832 Local Government was in a transitional stage. The central authority did not care to interfere in local affairs and encouraged the passing of local Acts by which all sorts of governing bodies were formed, without any attempt at co-ordination.

†“It is a peculiarity of the administration of this country that nearly every public authority divides the country differently, and with little or no reference to other divisions. Each authority appeared to be unacquainted with the existence or at least with the work of the others. . . . All the various areas intersected and overlapped each other. . . . All these areas were governed by different authorities, elected or selected by different means and bodies.”

There was no local authority which had any real control out of its own district; as Chalmers said, in 1883: “Local Government in this country may be fitly described as consisting of a chaos of areas, a chaos of authorities, and a chaos of rates.”

From this condition of affairs followed the natural sequence that every separate hamlet had its own limited authority, which at most points overlapped and was antagonistic to that of its neighbours, of whom it was usually intensely and unreasonably suspicious.

Sheffield furnished an excellent illustration of this feeling, *e.g.* the ratepayers of the other townships were always prepared to join in any attack upon the township of Sheffield, for the simple reason that it was the largest and presumably the most wealthy. The inhabitants of the various villages which now make up the City of Sheffield have always been distinguished for their intense local patriotism and for their inability to look upon themselves as constituent parts

† Local Government, by W. Blake Odgers, 2nd Ed., 1909.

of a great whole. This habit of parochialism has survived even to the present day. In 1832 it was strongly in evidence at the meetings of the different parishes with regard to the steps to be taken to combat the approaching epidemic. Everybody thought that something should be done, but also everybody expressed the opinion that somebody else ought to pay for it. The general idea was that the legitimate source from which the requisite funds were to be derived was to be found in the township of Sheffield—which was to do most of the work and have most of the suffering—whilst the contributions of the other townships were and ought to be husbanded carefully and used for their own exclusive benefit.

The actual governing bodies were the various parishes in their several areas and the Commission of the Peace (which held courts of petty sessions twice a week). The Justices of the Peace, in addition to their judicial functions, had been gradually placed in possession of all the administrative work of the counties. (It was not until the Local Government Act of 1888 was passed that the ratepayers obtained control of the administration of their own county areas.) In practice this meant that the actual power was in a very few hands, and that wherever you turned you were up against the same set of men, because the parishes were largely controlled by that section of the people from whom the Justices of the Peace were selected.* The only semblance of popular government was to be found in the vestry meeting of the parishes. "The open Parish Vestry was for several centuries unique in England as the only popular assembly (other than the House of Commons) having the right to impose compulsory taxation." The clergyman of the parish often assumed the right to be chairman of the vestry,† but "There is no explicit authority for this; possibly the meeting had always the right to elect its own chairman." "The valuable feature of the procedure was the formal notice given to the parishioners of all the business it was intended to transact."

*See p 207.

† "English Local Government," Jenks, p. 27; "Local Government," W. Blake Odgers, p. 52.

The officials attached to the vestry were the Churchwardens, the Surveyors of Highways, the Overseers of the Poor, and the Petty Constables.

The Justices of the Peace, the parishes, and any other *ad hoc* body which local enterprise had brought into being, looked after the relief of destitution, the prevention of crime, the suppression of nuisances, the maintenance of highways, the provision of markets, the regulation of trade, and anything which local caprice or patriotism had laid hold of.

At that time there was no municipal government in Sheffield, but there were several corporations and bodies which had more or less power, though many of their powers were in abeyance and in some cases the influence was indirect. These bodies were:—

- (1) The Town Trustees.
- (2) The Capital Burgesses.
- (3) The Cutlers' Company.
- (4) The Courts Leet.
- (5) The Police Commissioners, created by the Police Act of 1818.

In Sheffield the parishes looked after the maintenance of the Church, the keeping of the peace, the prevention and relief of vagrancy, the care of the roads, and the suppression of nuisances; but the Town Trustees from their funds made grants for various public purposes; the Capital Burgesses provided money for the services of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the repair of roads and bridges; the Cutlers' Company had powers of regulation of trades, and occasionally gave sums of money for public purposes; the Police Commissioners looked after that portion of the town laid down in the Act of 1818.

The Town Trustees, working under the Charter granted by Lord Furnival in 1297, had no powers of local government in Sheffield in 1832, but they did contribute materially to support various schemes of improvement. The Police Act of 1818 owed its origin to the financial support of the Town Trustees during its passage through Parliament.* It may be questioned—useful as the Act was—whether there was

* Records of the Burgery of Sheffield, Leader, page 429.

not an element of selfishness in this action of the Town Trustees. Certainly the contemporary public opinion of the town credited the Trustees with a desire to preserve the income of the Trust by getting this Act passed, so that those liable to be taxed under the Act should have to pay for various items which otherwise would have had to be paid for by the Trust. The Trust saved money in the long run by providing the £700 required for the expenses of passing the Act. In the Records of the Burgery of Sheffield, Leader† says: "Under the Police or Improvement Act the burden of lighting and cleansing the streets of the town was removed from the funds of the Trust and placed on the general body of the ratepayers."

The Police Act of 1818 extended to a distance of three-quarters of a mile from the Parish Church, and its powers were in the hands of a body composed of the Town Trustees, the Master and Wardens of the Cutlers' Company, and about 100 other gentlemen, who, for the purpose of the Act, were appointed Commissioners. Their duties were to see to the lighting, watching, and improvement of the town. They could levy a rate yearly of not more than 1s. 3d. in the pound.

‡Sheffield Police Act.

Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements from June, 1831, to June, 1832.

Act 58th Geo. III.

No person can act as a Commissioner unless he shall be rated, by virtue of the said Act, at not less than £20 per annum, or shall be possessed of real or personal estate to the amount or value of £1000.

It is obvious from this that only the wealthier inhabitants could become Commissioners. There was not much belief in democratic government—local or otherwise—in the early nineteenth century.

The magistrates were ordered to fine persons guilty of committing various offences, but they exercised this power

† Records of the Burgery of Sheffield, pp. 110 and 111.

‡ Leader's Burgery, p. 233.

with as much evasion as they could, *e.g.* in the case quoted on pp. 115-117.

The old government of the town by the Courts Leet—two of which existed, one for the Duke of Norfolk's Manor of Sheffield and one for Earl Fitzwilliam's Manor of Ecclesall—had fallen into abeyance. The Courts Leet and view of Frankpledge still had a yearly meeting, at which a whole host of officials was elected to inspect weights, measures, food, and so on; but these officials had by this time become merely ornamental and did no work, and would not have known what to do if it had been suggested to them that the duties of their offices did necessitate some occasional attention.

Each Manor had also a Court of Request which had to deal with the collection of small debts. Each Court of Request had an army of officials, and a gaol. The proceedings at these courts were rather costly, *e.g.* the fees on a debt of 10s. amounted to 3s. 7d.

The Duke of Norfolk, as Lord of the Manor, had the Market Rights of Sheffield, and the Earl Fitzwilliam the Market Rights of Ecclesall. (In each case these rights have now been acquired by the Corporation of Sheffield.)

III.

SHEFFIELD IN 1832: ITS WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY STATE, AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

*In 1832 Sheffield was a market town and borough with a population of 91,692. Its chief manufactures were cutlery and hardware. For parochial rating purposes the town was divided into the townships of Sheffield, Brightside Bierlow, Ecclesall Bierlow, Nether Hallam, Upper Hallam, and Attercliffe-cum-Darnall.

The township of Sheffield was the most lowlying and densely populated portion, and in it were situated most of the large works. Ecclesall was second in population. Then, as now, it was partly urban and partly rural, and was the aristocratic quarter of the town. Brightside, Upper and Nether Hallam, and Attercliffe-cum-Darnall were largely agricultural communities, with many of the "little mesters," *i.e.* small producers, working independently, and some forges. The town was badly paved and not well drained, except that by reason of its being built upon the slopes of the hills and by the presence of numerous small rivers flowing into the Don, there was a good natural drainage. Such sewers as existed were built of rubble, and hence were leaky and inefficient, with the result that the soil had got choked with sewage. This was especially so in the valleys and lowlying parts of the town. In the thickly populated quarters the working classes lived mostly in back-to-back houses. The front houses abutted upon the street, the back houses opened on to ill-paved courts in which were placed such sanitary conveniences as were then thought necessary, together with a stand-pipe from which the dwellers in each block had to fetch their water supply. The existence of these insanitary habitations was a standing menace to the health of the town. There are fifteen to sixteen thousand such back-to-back

* See page 169.

houses and courts still left as a memorial to the fact that local prejudices—and perhaps local landlords—rise superior to the claims of the public health. In spite of the squalor and lack of sanitation, Dr. G. C. Holland could truthfully write of Sheffield in 1843: "There is perhaps no town of the same importance in the kingdom commanding an equal variety of scenery—soft and sylvan, bold and abrupt, beautiful in all the exquisite touches of a cabinet picture, or presenting to the eye in extensive or remote prospects all the comprehensive lineaments of a magnificent panorama."

In early times Sheffield depended upon shallow wells for its water supply, or upon the rivers and streams which flowed through its valleys, of which Elliott wrote:

"Five rivers, like the fingers of a hand,
Flung from black mountains mingle and are one
Where sweetest vallies quit the wild and grand,
And eldest forests, o'er the sylvan Don,
Bid their immortal brother journey on,
A stately pilgrim, watch'd by all the hills."

In the early years of the seventeenth century a small reservoir was formed in Barker's Pool—it is said, by the generosity of Robert Rollinson, a mercer, who lived in the Market Place. Whether the pool was used for the supply of drinking water is somewhat uncertain, but the late Samuel Roberts left a spirited and amusing account of its use in cleansing the streets of the town.*

In 1697 Mr. Peter Whalley, an engineer of Nottingham, obtained from the Duke of Norfolk a lease of a rood of land "near Ladys Bridge," with that part of the River Don lying between the said bridge and Cawton Weir, and a piece of waste ground near Barker's Pool, with licence to break the streets for the purpose of better supplying the town with water. It was his intention to erect an engine by which to force the river water up to the reservoir near Barker's Pool, whence it was to be distributed in pipes through the town. Whalley died before he had made much progress in this useful undertaking. The scheme was then taken up by five public-spirited inhabitants—Messrs. Chapel, Lee, Drake, Turie, and Waterhouse—who obtained a lease of the said

*See pp. 192-193.

premises with the same powers. What progress they made or what success attended their efforts is not known with certainty; but it is evident that the scheme was engaged in seriously, for an engine-house was built—it appears in Oughtibridge's view of the town—and it is probable also that a reservoir was constructed. The project was, however, soon abandoned, and in 1713 Messrs. Goodwin and Littlewood obtained from the Lord of the Manor a grant of the privilege of laying pipes through the commons, highways, and waste grounds of the manor, for the purpose of conveying water from the springs and dams near the White House. In 1737 Messrs. Matthewman and Battie obtained a share in this concern, and in 1742 the whole of it fell into their hands. These gentlemen, perceiving that the water supply was still inadequate and that the resources of the White House were by no means likely to meet the yearly increasing demands of the town, turned their attention to the deep valley on Crookesmoor, "where the sides of the hills abounded with fresh springs, and it seemed possible to pin the water up in reservoirs at a small expense."

They immediately set to work, and from the reservoirs there constructed and the works at the White House, the town received a supply nearly equal to its demands. As the town continued to increase with great rapidity, Mr. Joseph Matthewman (son of the above) and three other proprietors undertook to enlarge their works in 1782, and for their better encouragement the Earl of Surrey granted them a lease for 99 years of the privileges they had before enjoyed for shorter terms, at an uncertain annual rent, varying according to the success of the adventure. This company formed a reservoir near the White House, for the supply of the west part of the town, and another capacious one, a little above the others in the Crookesmoor valley, spreading over four acres and computed to contain 300,000 hogsheads. Five smaller reservoirs were afterwards formed in the two valleys, and several others of much larger dimensions were made near the village of Crookes, "to render the present inefficient supply more commensurate with the present increased state of the town, in many of the modern parts of which no water-pipes have been laid. From the grand reservoir the water is conveyed,

in pipes of $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. bore, a distance of 1,100 yards, to what is called the working dam at Portobello, and from thence to a stone cistern in Division Street, which contains about 700 hogsheads and supplies the street pipes." Many of the houses, however, obtained their water supply from wells, both public and private. In most cases these were shallow, and readily became contaminated. It is a question worth serious consideration whether the bad water supply of the period was not largely to blame for the great consumption of alcohol amongst all classes of society.

IV.

CHOLERA IN SHEFFIELD—EARLY STAGES.

On October 28th, 1831, the *Sheffield Courant* printed the notice sent out by the Privy Council on October 20th, 1831, advocating the establishment of local Boards of Health throughout the kingdom, and suggested that, in towns, district committees should be formed. It further recommended the isolation of all cases and the destruction by burning of contaminated articles. The Report of the College of Physicians to the Board of Health in London, written by Sir Henry Hallford, was also published.

On November 4th, 1831, at the monthly meeting of the Sheffield Police Commissioners, Mr. T. A. Ward read a memorial on the Cholera Morbus from Dr. Corden Thompson to the Town Trustees.* (This was also read at the Town Trustees' meeting held on November 9th). A committee was formed to co-operate with the Town Trustees and Burgesses of Sheffield, consisting of Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Clay Bacon, and Mr. Boulton.

On December 16th, 1831, the *Courant* stated that "The Overseers of the Poor of Sheffield respectfully call upon the inhabitants to cleanse their houses, yards, premises, &c."

The Town Trustees took the preliminary steps towards the formation of a Board of Health in Sheffield, and bore the initial expenses, as shown by the following extracts from their records:—

(Cholera.)

†Town Trustees' meeting, 7th November, 1831. It was resolved that the Magistrates, the Cutlers' Company, the Church Burgesses, the Infirmary Board, the Surveyors of Highways, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the several townships within the parish, the

* See p. 85.

† Records of the Burgh of Sheffield, p. 453.

deputation from the Police Commissioners already appointed, and the members of the medical profession be invited by advertisement to meet the Town Trustees at the Cutlers' Hall, on Wednesday next, the 9th inst., at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to determine on the means to be adopted for preventing the Cholera or mitigating it should that malignant disease unfortunately appear in Sheffield. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the members of the Medical Institution and to Dr. Thompson for their valuable communications on the subject. That circulars be specially addressed to Hugh Parker, Esq., as Senior Magistrate, Dr. Favell as Secretary of the Medical Institution, Dr. Thompson, the Master Cutler, the Capital Church Burgess, the Chairman of the Infirmary Board, and Mr. Edward Smith as Secretary to the Society for the Bettering the Condition of the Poor,* requesting their attendance at the proposed meeting on the 9th inst.

The report of this meeting was published in the *Courant* of November 11th. A Provisional Committee (names not given) was appointed, and the medical gentlemen were requested to form a Medical Board.

Mr. Bagshawe proposed and Mr. Ellison seconded a motion that the Workhouse should be used as a Cholera Hospital: "No town could have such an advantage as Sheffield in employing their Workhouse for such a purpose, from its airiness and cleanliness, and also from its being walled round."

†11th November, 1831. P. 459.

Collector authorized to say the Trust will contribute, as the emergency of the occasion may require, towards the fund for preventing or mitigating the Cholera.

‡30th December, 1831.

£200 voted towards the present wants of the Cholera Committee.

*Mr. Edward Smith was Chairman of this Society and Mr. James Montgomery was the Secretary.

† Records of the Burgery of Sheffield, p. 459.

‡ Ibid.

*6th September, 1832. P. 461.

£200 having been voted in aid of the Cholera Fund, and £150 only having been paid, resolved that the remaining £50 be appropriated to the discharge of the demands on that account not falling within the strict letter of the Orders in Council.

†7th October, 1834. P. 465.

£20 contributed to the erection of a monument on the Cholera burial ground.

Previous to this meeting the medical men of the town had taken action, for on October 29th, 1831, the *Independent* states: "We understand that a number of the gentlemen of the medical profession of this town formed themselves into a District Committee, and on Wednesday made a careful perambulation of those quarters of the town which might be supposed most likely to be visited by any contagious disorder. Their Report, which we believe is favourable to belief of the existence of general health, has been forwarded to the Town Trustees."

This Committee met daily at the Cutlers' Hall, at 11 o'clock a.m., and issued an address containing admirable precepts and directions with regard to (1) Ventilation; (2) Cleanliness; (3) Habits (the use of tobacco is especially condemned—"a drug of the most pernicious nature"); (4) Infection.

When the disease persistently delayed its appearance the public gradually ceased to worry about it and objected strongly to any restrictions. "When Cholera extends as an epidemic its course is often singularly erratic. Some places apparently in the direct line of advance are passed over, to be attacked perhaps at a later period. Similarly, certain districts of a town may be spared, while other parts of the same town are ravaged by the disease."

On July 1st, 1831, the *Courant*, in a leading article, proved to its own satisfaction that "The alarm is entirely groundless."

† Records of the Burgery of Sheffield.

* Ibid.

*The Sunderland epidemic illustrates very strongly the way in which public feeling swayed from one extreme to the other. Here the epidemic began in October, 1831, and on October 28th the local authorities announced that Spasmodic Cholera prevailed in Sunderland; but, as frequently occurs, the epidemic abated for the time being, and on November 10th the local magnates and medical men met and decided that there was not, and never had been, any "Indian or other foreign imported Cholera in Sunderland; that it was a wicked and malicious falsehood to say there was, and there was no need of quarantine on the Wear." Coincident with these resolutions came a recrudescence of the epidemic. It is only just to say that some of those who denied the existence of the disease had the courage of their convictions, and after the cessation of the epidemic agreed that it had been one of "spontaneous malignant Cholera."

As a newspaper of the time, the *Courant* said: "After all, it appears nearly, if not quite, certain that the Asiatic Cholera is not and has not been in Sunderland." Which is a good way of putting it.

After the Town Trustees' meeting the authorities in London were communicated with, and the following reply was received:—

Privy Council,

20 June, 1832.

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th inst., addressed to the Home Department, having been transmitted by Lord Melbourne to this office, I am directed to inform you that previously to Local Boards of Health being enabled to act under the Orders in Council issued in consequence of the passing of the Cholera Prevention Act, it is necessary that such Boards should be specially constituted by the Lords of the Council, and I am to request that a public meeting of the rated inhabitants may be convened at Sheffield for the purpose of electing from 15 to 20 of the most respectable

* Creighton, vol II, p. 798.

gentlemen who may be willing to form a Board of Health for that town, and that their names may be transmitted in order that they may be submitted to the Lords of the Council for approval.

Yours, etc.,

W. H.,
pro Secy.

Albert Smith, Esq.,
Clerk to the Magistrates,
Town Hall, Sheffield.

(The Board of Health for Sheffield had been appointed on November 9th in the previous year.)

12 July, 1832.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. announcing the Appce of Cholera at Sheffield, and to request that in the event of any Or case occurring a rept thereof in conformity to the enclosed Form (No. 3) may be transmitted under cover to the Clk of the C—m in writing and cond daily so long as the Disease exists, and I am also to request that the names of the present Bd of Hth at Sheffield may be forwarded for the approval of the P. C.

Yours, etc.,

W. M.

T. A. Ward, Esq.,
Ch. Bd of Hth,
Sheffield.

A. Smith, Esq.,
Town Hall.

Usual letter (and I am to request that a return may be forwarded daily agreeably to Form (No. 3) stating in the first return the number of cases that have occurred, with the date of the first transmitting following order, to A. Smith, Esq., Town Hall, Sheffield.

Council Chamber,
Whitehall,
14 July, 1832.

Order constituting Bd of Hth for the Town of Sheffield.
Same Form as order entd in usual way.

Members

Hugh Parker Esq	Wm John Bagshawe Esq
Rev ^d J Sutton	John Blake Esq
Mr. Thos Dunn	Mr. Thos Ellin
Mr. Sam ^l Revill	Thos Ward
Mr. Sam ^l Bailey	Mich ^l Ellison
Wm Yonge M.D.	Arnold Jas Knight M.D.
Gordon Thompson M.D.	Mr. Jas Montgomery
Mr. Jon ^h Marshall	C Brookfield
Edw ^d Smith	Sam ^l Roberts
Wm Hargreaves	Bacon
H. F. Boulton	Francis Fenton

After the fashion of the time, some are described as Esq., some as Mr., and in one case the surname alone is given without affix or suffix.*

The Board of Health.

The Chairman of the Board of Health originally appointed was Thomas Asline Ward, and in this capacity he took the chair at the meeting of the Sheffield Township held 25th July, 1832. How long Mr. Ward remained Chairman is not ascertainable. From the very first, however, James Montgomery appears to have been the guiding spirit of the Committee. The various manifestoes issued by the local Board are all signed by him, so that he must have been elected to the office of Chairman at an early date.

In a letter written to John Holland on 25th August, 1832, Montgomery says: "Soon after the official establishment of the Board of Health, I was appointed Chairman, and have never neglected my duties in that capacity, so far as I understood them, on any occasion"; and in a letter to Miss

* Brief biographies will be found on p. 205.

Rowntree he says: "From the commencement of the Board of Health under the Act of Parliament, I have been daily in attendance at it (with the exception of a brief visit to Fulneck)."

This visit to Fulneck was probably made during the month of August, when a meeting was held to celebrate the centenary anniversary of the establishment of the Moravian Missions.

Montgomery is known to the world as a minor poet and a social reformer, who suffered for his convictions; but he stands out in this period as an energetic and far-seeing sanitary expert possessing the somewhat rare combination of superabundant piety with common sense.

On June 16th, in the *Sheffield Mercury* (p. 190) appeared this paragraph:

"We have reason to fear that a case of Spasmodic Cholera has occurred in this town. A person named Foster, who arrived a few days since from Thorne, was seized by some of the symptoms that distinguish this disease, and died on Thursday." (June 14th.)

The paper then went on to say there was the usual division in the opinion of the medical men of the town as to whether the case was one of Cholera or not.

Every town in the kingdom at this time was strongly disinclined to admit the presence of Cholera within it. The same story is apparent in the records everywhere. It could not possibly be such a thing, and even when clearly proved some people were prepared to deny its existence. The fashionable spas, with a fine instinct of self-preservation, and in quite the modern style, procured the insertion in the newspapers of paragraphs of which the following is a good example:

*"It is a remarkable fact that during the prevalence of the Cholera there has not yet been presented a single instance of the appearance of the disease at any of the spas in the kingdom. Our reports from the different

*1832, May 19th.

fashionable watering-places give hope of a very profitable season."

The paper then gave, printed in italics, the following admirable and plainly-stated summary:

"The Cholera is likely to come to Sheffield. It attacks chiefly the dirty, the idle, the drunken, and the disorderly. Those, therefore, who wish to escape the Cholera should be sober, industrious, and steady, and keep themselves and their houses clean. If, as soon as anyone begins with the Cholera, he can get a doctor to attend him, he will be likely to recover; but if he cannot get a doctor until he has been ill several hours, he will be almost sure to die.

"If the Cholera rages in Sheffield, all the poor cannot get doctors to attend them at their own homes, and even if they could get them, yet for want of proper nursing and other comforts, the doctor could do very little good for the patients at their own homes.

"For these reasons, a place has been provided at the public expense where there will be plenty of fresh, pure air, clean linen, comfortable beds, proper medicines, and the best food; there will also be provided attentive and humane nurses, skilful and kind doctors—ready to attend day and night upon all who require their assistance.

"Conveyances will be provided for carrying the sick as soon as they are taken ill, and in the most comfortable manner, to this House of Recovery.

"In almost every large town, when the Cholera has first broken out, the people have been unwilling to leave their homes: thus hundreds have died who might with proper care and attention have been saved; when the Cholera has been raging for a time they then find out the advantages of such places, and are anxious to avail themselves of them when it is too late. It is confidently believed that the poorer inhabitants of Sheffield are too wise to remain at home and die, rather than go to the Cholera House of Recovery, where if they go in sufficient time, they themselves would be likely to recover and their families perhaps preserved from taking the disease

No one will be forced to go; everyone may do as he pleases: all that is wished is that people should be made fully acquainted with the advantages to be derived from going to such a house, and not have vainly to regret, when it is too late, that they were not aware that such excellent means had been provided for their safety."

It is quite true, as the paper states, that the initial victims were "the dirty, the idle, the drunken, and the disorderly," but those who were not so distinguished were also liable, and the better classes were by no means immune even at the outset [*e.g.* the Master Cutler of Sheffield was one of the earliest victims] and in the later stages of the epidemic suffered as much as the poorer members of the community.

It is noticeable, too, how strongly the sufferer is advised to seek refuge in the hospital provided by the town, which was euphemistically styled the House of Recovery.

The general public had what appears to us nowadays to be a most unreasonable dread of going into a public hospital for treatment. In the *Sheffield Mercury*, July 29th, 1832, in what may be called editorial comments upon the weekly bulletin, there occurs the following instructive passage:

"We regret exceedingly to state, that in spite of the manifest anxiety and truly laudable exertions of the gentlemen who compose the Board of Health, there are persons who imagine that such benevolence originates in any other than the best of motives and the kindest and most considerate feelings. A very slight degree of reflection would have convinced the individuals who, on Wednesday, in the Park, insulted some of the hospital attendants, when taking a patient to the House of Recovery, and their conduct displayed ignorance and bad feelings."

People thought that they would be badly done to, and they feared that if they died they would be subjected to a post-mortem examination. This curious feeling of repugnance to the examination of a body after death, with a view of ascertaining the cause of disease, was very strong in the nineteenth century, and even now is far more prevalent than would have been thought to be the case, considering the

benefits that may result to the living from such procedure. There were also tales going about—which I have heard from old men who had been told by their fathers—that those who were not likely to recover or who were particularly troublesome were smothered with pillows by the nurses.*

In a time of public excitement, coupled with fear of the disease which slays many people during a violent epidemic, all sorts of wild and improbable stories become current, and find a ready acceptance amongst the uncritical and the ignorant.

In our own day, when the infectious diseases hospitals were established in the various towns of the United Kingdom there was at first great reluctance amongst those chiefly to be benefited to avail themselves of the privilege, and it was only after years of patient work in many cases that this state of mind was overcome. Nowadays the public opinion has changed, and people grumble considerably if their children cannot be sent into the municipal hospitals as soon as the nature of the disease is diagnosed. They have learnt that it is better for the patient and for the community that the treatment of infectious cases should be undertaken under conditions in which it is possible to isolate the case and to give it the best possible attention by a staff of medical men and nurses specially trained for the purpose. They have also recognized that it is much cheaper to themselves.

In Cholera, the provision of a special hospital is of the greatest value, as by this method complete isolation of the affected cases can be obtained, and hence a check be placed upon the dissemination of the disease. Even in 1832 this was of importance, for though the real nature of the disease was unrecognized and the isolation and disinfection decidedly imperfect, yet it was soon discovered that every case left in its own home became a focus from which was spread infection, sometimes over a wide area—a danger especially to be

* That this notion is of long-standing is shown by reference to many old writers e.g. In Webster's play, "The White Devil or Vittoria Corombona" (1612), Act v, Sc. where Brachiano is strangled.

Lod.: "The snuff is out. No woman-keeper i'th' world,
Though she had practis'd seven years at the pest-house,
Could have done't quaintlier."

In allusion to the strangling done, to save themselves trouble, by nurses on plague-patients

avoided in the cases occurring in the small insanitary houses in a densely populated area.

The various parishes constituting the town of Sheffield held meetings to consider what financial support should be given by them to the local Board of Health.

*The Parish of Sheffield met on the 25th of July, 1832, and decided to provide the amount of £1,000, and requested the other parishes to contribute in a proportion according to the amount paid by each township to the county rate; subsequently further sums were voted, making a total contribution of £1,800.

At this meeting Mr. Montgomery gave a general account of the progress of the epidemic. His account is well worth repeating, as it gives a clear statement of the disease and the measures which had been taken to deal with it up to the time of this meeting:

“About twelve months since, the Cholera broke out in Sunderland [Oct., 1831], where it continued for some time, and afterwards crept slowly northwards to Durham and Gateshead, when it passed over to Scotland, where it raged with some violence in Edinburgh and Glasgow. It afterwards got to the Metropolis of this country, and there it continued up to the present time; but though the population of the Metropolis was so dense, its ravages hitherto might be considered but few and small. Ireland was the next place visited by this disease, where it produced a most awful devastation of human life. In this town, although Providence had not altogether spared us, he had only gently laid his hand upon us. . . . We ought, however, to be prepared for Providential evil, as well as Providential good, and endeavour to arrest the progress of the disease in our own neighbourhood and provide against its further encroachment. In November [the actual dates of the meeting were Nov. 7th and 9th, 1831] or December last a number of gentlemen formed themselves into a Board of Health under the auspices of the Town Trustees, and as the expenses did not at the time appear likely to be large, he believed he might state

* See p. 91.

that the Town Trustees intended to pay the whole expense liable to be incurred; for which they were highly commendable. It had now, however, become a question of serious importance—a question of life and death; and there were only two ways of providing for the accommodation of the poor who were afflicted; one was by voluntary subscription, and the other by appropriating a portion of the parish rates for the purpose. It would not be expected, as the plague had been on the gradual increase for the last fortnight, and the expenses considerable, that the private bounty would be sufficient to provide accommodation for the poor and defray all expenses; and it was therefore well that an Act had been passed, and recently followed up by Orders in Council, which justified the ratepayers in establishing Cholera Hospitals and other buildings as auxiliaries to the same, and paying all expenses which might be reasonable and properly incurred.”

Mr. Montgomery was considerably in advance of the notions current at that time. The matter was certainly not one for private benevolence, but was emphatically one that concerned the public at large, and for which, therefore, they were collectively responsible. The same truth applies to-day in many other matters, and it is becoming more and more evident that the public interest will require that as years go by many things now left to private enterprise will be dealt with by the community or the State.

*The Parish of Ecclesall met on 26th July, 1832, and voted a sum not exceeding £250; “which sum is in just proportion to the sum of one thousand pounds as for the said Township of Sheffield, taking the medium between the County Rates Assessment and the amount of population in the respective townships.”

Ecclesall actually paid £450.

The Ecclesall Vestry furthermore went into the condition of the streets, houses, and water supply, and appointed “suitable persons” to act as inspectors in the several districts.

* See p. 71.

These inspectors were empowered *inter alia* “to leave a form offering ‘a reward of one shilling to such poor as are not in circumstances, or who cannot be otherwise induced to clean their own houses.’”

This method of inducing the “lower orders” to become temporarily sanitary by means of a money reward is typical of this age. It is clear that once having promised this 1s., the authorities would find that few of the working classes would do the whitewashing for nothing. As Canon Barnett said, “They develop prejudices as well as diseases.”

The Ecclesall people seem to have had a genuine, even if evanescent, spasm for the reform of all their insanitary areas.

*The Brightside Bierlow Vestry met on July 26th, 1832, and voted an amount not exceeding “the sum of £150, that sum being in due proportion with the amount of the respective population of the said two townships.”

Brightside paid in all £270.

†The Township of Nether Hallam held the Vestry Meeting on July 26th, and voted £100, “being the proportionate sum of that township according” to their County Rate.

Nether Hallam paid altogether the sum of £142.

‡The Township of Attercliffe-cum-Darnall decided not to join the other parishes of Sheffield, but to look after its own cases. It must be remembered that Attercliffe was at that time a long way from Sheffield, so that there is some excuse for the exercise of right to withhold co-operation with the other parts of Sheffield.

A separate Board of Health was granted, as follows:—

Attercliffe Board of Health.

10 Aug., 1832.

The usual letter to Revd. I. Blackburn, Attercliffe-cum-Darnall, Yorkse for a Bd of H. for that Township

C.C.W. 10 Aug 1832 By the Lords etc.

* See p. 77.

† See p. 96.

‡ See p. 80.

(Members) viz

Revd I Blackburn
 — — G. Greaves
 — — Pritchard
 Messrs I Shaw
 I. Shaw Jr
 E. W. Richardson
 J. Milner
 The Churchwardens
 The Overseers
 The Surveyors of Highway
 for the time being
 R. Hancock
 W. Marriott
 G. Hill
 G. Johnson
 D. Deakin
 W. Bladgen
 W. Makin
 W. Hardcastle.

W. Jeffcock
 F. Huntsman
 I. Sanderson
 H. Sorsby
 I. Shirley
 J. Hawksworth
 M. Johnson
 J. Oxley
 C. H.
 C. Hancock
 J. Marsh
 H. Holmes
 W. Marshall
 J. Fearnley
 G. Bradford
 H. Charlesworth
 T. Carlton
 and thus Sd Bd

Signed C. C. G.

It will be noticed that each parish, except Sheffield, whilst willing to pay something, was exceedingly anxious to pay as little as possible, and adopted some expedient to achieve this object. Ecclesall paid the medium between the County Rate and population; Brightside paid according to the population; Nether Hallam paid the full County Rate. A third method—that of paying according to the number of cases occurring in the township—was advocated, but not adopted. Probably because on second thoughts its supporters judged that its adoption might involve them in a greater expense than the other methods.

The Board of Health had already obtained the use of the upper storeys of the Sheffield Workhouse as a Cholera Hospital, and every effort was used to induce the victims of the disease to go there. We have no records of the actual number of cases admitted or treated there or at the Dispensary in the Park which was soon afterwards opened, but the number must have been very large.

The workhouse, where the Cholera patients were treated, is described by White in the Sheffield Directory for 1833 (p. 112) as follows:—

“is a gigantic asylum for the destitute and helpless poor, situated in Kellam Street, near the River Don. It is a lofty building, of many storeys, erected in 1811, on the fireproof principle, as a cotton mill, but purchased for its present use at the cost of £7,500, in 1829, when the old workhouse, which stood in the area at the foot of Workhouse Croft, was taken down. Several additions have been made to the buildings, and the whole enclosed by a strong wall, with a neat lodge for the principal entrance.”

The Hospital was well equipped, and was provided with a staff of medical men, an apothecary, six nurses, four washerwomen, two porters, four bearers, and one secretary.

According to the speech of Mr. Edward Smith at the Brightside Bierlow Vestry meeting, the medical men were to be paid at the rate of one guinea a day with board and lodging, the nurses one guinea per week and their food. The wages of the other attendants are not mentioned, but the wages must have been good ones to have tempted anyone to engage in what was—at any rate, to begin with—a very hazardous and distinctly disagreeable occupation.

From a letter written by “T. T.,” published in the *Sheffield Independent* on September 15th, 1832, we learn that the expenditure of the local Board was subjected to criticism on the grounds of unnecessary lavishness: “Report speaks of professional gentlemen having been allowed the sum of £9 17s. per week, others £7 7s., and some minor ones £3 13s. 6d. per week. How many there are engaged at such high salaries is best known to yourselves; but admitting there are only a few in number, it must amount to a very considerable sum per month.”

On July 14th, 1832, the first official bulletin, which continued to be issued to the end of the epidemic, was published in all the local newspapers.

This action of the Board of Health in publishing the numbers of cases and of deaths was a very sensible measure,

as unless this step had been taken there would have been the same series of wild and unfounded rumours going about as was the case in some other towns. For if the populace knows that the actual death roll is being withheld, it will always exercise its imagination in exaggeration of the actual figures.

The physicians to the Hospital were Dr. Calvert Holland, who went to Sunderland to study the disease on the spot, and who wrote from that place some interesting and valuable *letters to Mr. T. Asline Ward. Dr. Charles F. Favell went over to Dublin, accompanied by Mr. Turton, under the same conditions as Dr. Holland. The other medical men whose names are known were Mr. Walker, Mr. Holland, Mr. Boulton, Mr. Turton, Mr. Law, and Dr. Harwood. The Park Dispensary, which remained open until September 20th, 1832, had as its medical officers Dr. Harwood and Mr. Law.

There were doubtless other medical men engaged for a greater or less period during the height of the epidemic, but their names are not to be found in any records available.

The medical men in the town do not appear to have suffered from the disease, with the exception of Dr. Knight, physician to the Infirmary. T. Asline Ward says (†“Peeps into the Past,” p. 299): “Dr. Knight has been slightly affected, but the medical gentlemen have escaped very well.”

At the outset of the epidemic the local Board of Health issued the following notice:—

(*Iris*, July 24th, 1832.)

NOTICE.

The Board of Health have recommended that Interments of Persons who have died of Cholera Morbus should be confined to the Church Yards of ST. PHILIP'S, ST. MARY'S, and ST. GEORGE'S Churches, and of ATTERCLIFFE and ECCLESALL, but that NONE should take place in the other Church Yards and in the interior of the Town.

* See pp. 126, 129-139.

† See p. 181.

In the *Iris* of September 4th, 1832, there is published a letter, dated September 1st, and signed "A Member of the Board of Health, in which the following interesting particulars are given:—

"The deaths by Cholera from July 8, when the disease was first recognized in this town, to Saturday last, September 1, at noon, reported by the Board of Health, have been 346. Of these there had been interred, previous to the appropriation of the ground in the Park:—

In St. George's Church Yard	45
In St. Philip's do.	7
In the Parish do.	1
In Attercliffe do.	2

"There is reason to believe that two or three more were buried, either in St. Mary's Church Yard or at Ecclesall.

"In the Park burial ground, from Friday, August 3rd, to Saturday, September 1st, inclusive,

283

338

"The Board have been under the painful necessity of compelling obedience to the law in several cases, where they have been apprised that the bodies of Cholera patients were about to be buried elsewhere than in the ground set apart, according to Act of Parliament, for that sole and special purpose. It may be, therefore, taken for granted that in some other cases, not detected, there have been irregular interments.

"Until the beginning of August, the deceased Cholera patients were buried, or rather thrown, together daily into large graves, in St. George's Churchyard, but from the early part of that month, till the departure of the disease, they were interred in an unconsecrated piece of ground above the lofty summit of Claywood. This plot, now called the *Cholera burial ground*, belongs to the Duke of Norfolk, and is intended to be planted with trees. In the early career of the distemper (which was said only to be

infectious after death) the dead were carried to their graves, four or five together upon a cart, without sides or covering, but after several complaints had been made of this affecting and frequent exposure of groups of coffins in the public streets, the Board of Health provided a large hearse. The disease did not confine itself altogether to the poor, for several wealthy and respectable individuals were amongst its victims, and one of them was the *Master Cutler*, the late John Blake, Esq., who, in common with the rest, was allowed no other place of sepulture than the Claywood Cholera ground; but at other places, the remains of Cholera patients were suffered to mingle with those of their ancestors, and we see no satisfactory reason why the finest feelings of humanity should have been violated here."

By the courtesy of the Vicar of St. George's (the Rev. J. Trevor Lewis), I have been able to go through the list of Cholera cases. The site is even to-day well known. There were 46 Cholera burials, the first taking place on June 14th, the last on August 3rd, 1832.

The first interment of a Cholera patient took place on June 14th, 1832. The deceased was named Samuel Foster, aged 48 years, the address being "Baisin." (No. 523 in Burial Register.) This was the man from Thorne who was said to have brought the disease to Sheffield.

(There was no other Cholera interment until July 8th. The records of the epidemic are all made from this date. Samuel Foster—whether he conveyed the epidemic to Sheffield or not—is not counted as a victim in the official papers.)

The last Cholera interment took place on August 3rd, and was that of Martha, wife of Matthias Gillam. (No. 649 in Register.) In ordinary cases the cause of death is not given in the Register, but Cholera cases are noted thus—(1) if they died at their own homes, the word "Cholera" is written after the name; (2) if they died at the House of Recovery, the words "Cholera Hospital" are written.

On June 16th, 1832, the *Independent* says: "Some reports have been prevalent during the last two days that cases of Asiatic Cholera have appeared in this town.

"The only fact in connection with the existence of the epidemic which has reached our knowledge is the death of a person named Foster, who was interred at St. George's Church at ten o'clock on Thursday night. The victim was a tailor who had recently visited the town from the neighbourhood of Thorne, and was supposed to be of intemperate habits. On this case it is understood that the medical men have expressed various and most contradictory opinions."

On June 15th, 1832, the *Courant* prints the following paragraph: "We lament to state that a fatal case of Cholera, accompanied with most of the characteristic symptoms of Asiatic form of the disease, has occurred in this town. The patient was a tailor, named Foster, who had recently left Thorne. He was attended by Mr. F. Pearson, Dr. Favell, and Dr. Knight, and seen by a considerable number of medical gentlemen of the town. We understand that the poor man had greatly neglected himself at the commencement of the disease, and thus rendered the chances of his recovery a hundredfold less than they would otherwise have been."

The case evidently did not give rise to much apprehension, for on June 30th the *Independent* said that "the alarm which lately existed in this neighbourhood on the report of the approach of the cholera has altogether subsided."

As it was necessary to comply with the requirements of the Act, the Board began to look around for a site for a suitable burying ground, but by the intervention of Mr. Ellison (the Treasurer of the Board), who was agent for the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke gave a plot of ground called Claywood, situated in what is now called Norfolk Road, in the Park; and in this place those who died of Cholera were buried. The hearse in which the remains were conveyed was known as "The Cholera Basket." All burials took place at the earliest possible moment, and to facilitate this a *regular rota of clergymen of all denominations was

* See p. 147.

arranged so that someone should be in attendance throughout the day. *This spot of ground was subsequently enclosed and a monument erected in conformity with the artistic taste of the early nineteenth century.

On December 11th, 1834: "This day the corner-stone of the monumental cross on the Cholera Burial Ground at Claywood was laid in the presence of Michael Ellison, Esq., as agent to the Duke of Norfolk, Mr. M. E. Hadfield, the architect, and other persons, by Mr. Montgomery, the Chairman of the late Board of Health. . . . This monument, which terminates an avenue of trees in front of the Shrewsbury Hospital, and forms a very conspicuous feature in the scenery, consists of an elegant shaft, rising from a triangular base and having a cruciform termination."

The hurried method of interment provoked the following contemporary comment:

"The Sheffield Board of Health, which, like other Boards, derived its power from an Act of Parliament passed in the early part of 1832, deemed it necessary for the benefit of the living, to enforce interment of the dead within a few hours after their decease, and sometimes they were hurried to their graves before their friends were fully satisfied that life was really extinct, and indeed the soporific drugs, which were but too freely administered, were well calculated to produce on the weak and half-famished bodies of the poor the suspension of all apparent animation."

In the *Iris* of August 11th, 1832, there appeared a letter signed "An Inquirer," in which the writer, after mentioning the danger of premature burial, advocates the following method of procuring euthanasia:

"Would it not be practicable and well, effectually to prevent resuscitation before closing the coffin, by some unoffensive method, such perhaps, as closely sealing the mouth and nostrils, at any rate when desired to do it?"
The last eight words are delicious!

* See Appendix, pP. 190-191.

V.

LATER STAGES AND CONCLUSION.

The weekly bulletins as published in the local press show that the disease attained its maximum during August. "This fatal scourge was the most virulent in the month of August, when the humane feelings of the inhabitants were often shocked by seeing in the evening the hasty funeral of friends whom they had seen walking the streets in the morning in apparent health!"

The effect of this was to bring together the various religious denominations to hold a local Fast Day on August 22nd, "to supplicate the Divine Throne for a remission of the Cholera which was then ravaging the town." This local day of intercession was generally observed, and James Montgomery wrote *Hymn 289, for a Day of Humiliation during the prevalence of the Cholera: "Let the land mourn through all its coasts."

He also wrote about the same period †Hymn 290, during the Cholera—Confession and Supplication: "It is the Lord! Behold, His Hand."

There had been a general Fast Day for the whole country celebrated on March 21st, but the Cholera had not then reached Sheffield, so that this National Fast Day had not been observed by the inhabitants at large to any great extent.

The local Fast Day was followed by a temporary lull in the number of cases; but this slackening was not of long duration, for the disorder soon regained some of its former strength.

In November it was thought to be sufficiently decreased to enable the holding of a Day of Thanksgiving for the removal of the pestilence to be observed on November 22nd.

For this Day of Thanksgiving James Montgomery wrote the ‡Hymn 291 (p. 291 in collected works)—Thanksgiving for deliverance from the Cholera: "Walking on the winged

* See p. 208.

† See p. 208.

‡ See p. 209.

wind"; and also *Hymn 292—Thanksgiving for the removal of the Cholera from Sheffield, 1832: "Sing Hallelujah! Sing."

The Cholera epidemic was responsible for the outpourings of much literature of one sort or another. Two local poets—Paul Rodgers and Mary Hutton—wrote poems on the subject which are here appended (see pp. 211-212). Mention of the ravages of the epidemic is made by most of the local writers, as will be seen on reference to pp. 181, &c.

The Cholera was, however, not quite done with, and cases went on appearing at irregular intervals until December 8th, after which date only one case was reported.

From July 8th to July 15th there were ten cases, with four deaths. With this comment: "It is gratifying to remark that not a single death from this dreadful disease has occurred in the House of Recovery, and that the patients at present confined there are going on well, which is to be attributed to the excellent arrangements adopted by the medical gentlemen of the town, to whom too great praise cannot be given."

The *Courant*, July 13th, 1832, states: "It is no longer doubtful that Spasmodic Cholera has made its appearance at Sheffield, though its progress has not been attended with the malignity which has characterized it in some other towns. The first case occurred in Button Lane, near the top of Sheffield Moor. Up to yesterday morning, the number of cases had been eight, and four deaths; and during the day there was one case admitted into the hospital. Of the five now remaining, four are females, who, together with the other case (presumably a mere man) are in a fair way to recovery."

On July 27th the *Courant* says: "Since our last, the disease has diffused itself over a wider circle. Cases have occurred in the Park and on Sheffield Moor, at the bottom of Arundel Street, and in the Nursery, in Pond Street and on Pond Hill, in Spring Street, Water Lane, and at the bottom of Furnival Street, Cotton Mill Row, &c."

On August 17th the *Courant* says that the disease has been most fatal in the Park, the Wicker, and Bridgehouses.

* See p. 210.

The Yorkshire Assizes to be held at York were postponed from July 14th to Saturday, the 6th October.

To July 19th there were 24 cases and 10 deaths.

The Hackney Coach Owners this week issued the following advertisement, designed to soothe the minds of nervous people:

"A report having been circulated that a Cholera patient has been taken in one of the hackney coaches, we, the undersigned, do hereby certify that no Cholera patient has been taken in any coach belonging to the stand.

To July 27th there were 50 cases and 24 deaths. The editorial remarks on this are still strongly in favour of all cases going to the House of Recovery: "Those who died were either persons of intemperate or filthy habits, or were brought to the hospital in the last stage of the disease. Persons of different habits, whose constitutions were not impaired by excesses, although brought in at the collapsed stage, have recovered. One girl who died was a great opium eater, and yet she was only eleven years old. A few days ago a woman, having returned to her home, slept in the bed in which her brother had recently died. The bed had been carefully washed, but notwithstanding this precaution, the poor woman was attacked by Cholera during the night, and in thirty hours she was a corpse. In consequence of this occurrence the Board have appointed inspectors to examine whether the houses to which the patients returned on their recovery are in a proper state to receive them. A flannel shirt or chemise is also given them, in order that no bad effects may result from a sudden change of temperature."

The disease now began to reach its height, for the next bulletin, July 28th to August 3rd, shows total cases 177, deaths 59. On August 1st there were 35 fresh cases.

Again the Editor recommends the House of Recovery in the following terms: "We earnestly request every individual in the town, who has any influence among his neighbours or friends, to exert the same in endeavouring to persuade those who may be seized with this afflicting disease to be conveyed to the hospital, where the best, the readiest, and the most efficient aid is always at hand, and where the

recoveries (*sic*) have been much more numerous than in cases where the patients have been attended at their own homes. This striking fact ought to convince the most credulous."

This week the surveyor of the police apparently woke up and gave orders "that if the requirements of the Police Act* with regard to the inhabitants cleansing their footpaths, etc., three times a week be not attended to, he will enforce the penalties of the Act without discrimination."

The last two words are especially suggestive, in view of contemporary ideas as to how the provisions of the Act were evaded by those able to do so.

In a letter published in the *Iris*, dated July 28th, signed 'S. R.' (?Samuel Roberts), the Surveyors of Highways are criticized thus:

"The surveyors, it appears, do not act harmoniously together. It is true that they all pull at the same time, but in different directions, each, it seems, striving to get as much done near his own residence as he can."

To assist in this matter of cleansing the streets, &c., the Police Commissioners on August 1st met and empowered the Scavengers Committee to employ two additional men if they found it necessary.

From August 4th to August 10th there were 177 new cases (42 in one day, August 10th) and 63 deaths, making total cases 352, with 122 deaths.

This week the Cutlers' Company met and resolved that the funds usually applied towards the Corporation dinner, as likewise the forfeits of the members, be paid over to the Board of Health.

The *Iris* on August 7th, 1832, states: "The Police Commissioners appointed a Committee to correspond with the Board of Health and act under their suggestion in the removal of all nuisances which might be supposed capable of injuring the public health."

From August 11th to August 17th there were 278 new cases, with 85 deaths—the total being 630 cases and 207 deaths.

*See p. 170.

From August 18th to August 24th there were new cases (53 on August 21st), with 92 deaths.

On August 25th the Day of Humiliation was held.

From August 23rd to August 31st there were 191 new cases and 43 deaths—total cases 1,086, with 342 deaths.

The *Mercury*, August 4th, 1832, announces: "We are happy in being able to state that no more interments of Cholera patients will take place in the places of public sepulture in this town. A piece of ground has been provided near the Shrewsbury Hospital for the reception of those who fall victims to this fatal disease. The fears of those who attend the churches or who reside in the neighbourhood of our public burial grounds will therefore, we hope, be altogether allayed."

On August 11th, 1832, there was published the following:—

CHOLERA.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

The bodies of all persons dying of Cholera are hereby directed to be interred in the Burial Ground provided by the Board of Health, near the Clay Wood, as the interment of the bodies of persons dying of that disease are forbidden by law to take place in any church or chapel yard. And the public are also informed that attendance will begin by the clergy each day, at ten o'clock in the forenoon and at five o'clock in the afternoon, excepting on Sundays, when that attendance will be given in the forenoon, at nine o'clock, and in the afternoon, at six o'clock.

By order,

JAMES MONTGOMERY,

Chairman.

Board of Health, August 4th, 1832.

N.B.—It is requested that notice be given to the gravedigger at the Burial Ground three hours previous to an interment taking place.

The Editor prints this interesting paragraph: "So many specifics have been advertised and resorted to without effect, that the Board of Health have issued placards, denouncing all the prescriptions, etc., and recommending applications to the House of Recovery for advice and medicine, which may be obtained gratis."

On September 1st the Board of Health issued a notice* that all interments that had not been properly registered could be done so at the Parish Church Vestry, and that the Register would be examined and the necessary entries made free of expense.

Note on August 25th:

"We are sorry to learn that this disease has made its appearance at Rotherham."

Note on September 1st:

"Handsworth—Two cases of Cholera have occurred."

"At Attercliffe, too, the Cholera has made its appearance. There have been two or three cases and one death. A comfortable hospital has been provided, adjoining the poorhouse, for the reception of patients."

On September 8th "The victuallers and dealers in beer" were warned "to observe the laws for the regulations of such houses," and "that the full penalties for any breach would be imposed "from the conviction . . . that the evils of Cholera in this neighbourhood, as well as elsewhere, have been exceedingly aggravated by intemperance and profligacy in both sexes."

The weekly list, September 1st to 7th, showed 101 new cases and 18 deaths, the total being 1,187 cases and 360 deaths.

(In Rotherham there were 31 cases and 15 deaths.)

From September 8th to 14th there were 59 new cases and 8 deaths. (Total 1,236 cases and 368 deaths.)

On September 20th the Board of Health stated that the disease was so much abated that it had decided to close the Park Dispensary, there being no new case lately reported from that district. At the same time, the Board reiterated

*See p. 102.

its appeal for the observance "of proper prudential measures," and its offer of free advice and medicines at any hour. The Board also requested that all bills should be sent in by September 29th, so that they could be examined and, "if found to be correct, paid."

The bulletin from September 15th to 21st showed 27 new cases and 8 deaths. (Total cases 1,282, deaths 383.)

Amongst "Miscellanies," the *Mercury* prints the following instructive paragraph:

"The circular issued by the (*Central*) Board of Health to the medical profession, requesting that the particulars of such plans of treatment as may have appeared to have been unusually successful in the treatment of Cholera might be transmitted to the Board, has been the means of bringing to light almost as many plans of treatment—all, of course, 'unusually successful' as there are gentlemen practising physic."

On October 6th the *Mercury* says: "There are still a few cases to report; but there are so few that the Board of Health, we understand, will shortly suspend their sittings and meet at intervals of a few days."

From September 29th to October 5th there were 23 new cases and 6 deaths. (Total 1,303, deaths 390.)

On Monday, October 7th, 1832, the ratepayers of the township of Sheffield held a meeting at which votes of thanks were given in a very liberal manner to everybody who had anything to do with the epidemic, and authorizing an additional levy of £300 on the rates.

On October 13th a Vestry Meeting was held to receive the Report of the Board of Health. A general review of what had been done was given by Mr. Montgomery, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board.

From this, it appears that the Board of Health acted throughout in co-operation with a Medical Board, which latter gave counsel to the former "what measures to adopt for the prevention, cure, or abatement of the disease."

In addition to the Cholera Hospital, there was "expressly erected" a House of Observation for the reception

of a class of patients necessarily removed from their homes, where death has been, and premonitory symptoms, or were in a state of exhaustion and misery, rendering them peculiarly liable to the disease—as well as others, who having happily passed through the severest stages of it, were comparatively convalescent, but yet unfit to be sent back to their wretched homes and scanty fare.”

(This was a most sensible step to take, and must have been of material advantage to all concerned.)

He then goes into the question of expense, especially referring to the difficulty of obtaining domestic servants, porters, nurses, and washerwomen. “The terms, therefore, on which these indispensable assistants were hired, were high *beyond* precedent, for some weeks; but they were afterwards considerably reduced, when familiarity with the symptoms, as well as the end of the calamity, had rendered these humble agents less afraid, from being more experienced in self-management, as well as the management of the patients, and the performance of their painful and revolting duties to the living and the dead.”

It would have been interesting to know what sum was paid to these people, but there is no record. The abstract of accounts brought forward by Mr. Ellison, the Treasurer, gives no details.*

As regards the medical men employed, the Report goes on to say: “The physicians, surgeons, apothecaries engaged by the Board of Health, both for the Hospital and the Park Dispensary, were individually recommended, from time to time, as well as their number increased and diminished as the greater or lesser exigencies of the malady required, by the express advice of the Medical Board, which was invariably consulted in reference to all business connected with professional services and expedient. The remuneration of the gentlemen so employed was also fixed in every case by the same authority.”

“The medical inspectors, six in number, were also recommended by the Medical Board.”

*See p. 46.

The duties of the medical inspectors were to seek out cases, get them removed to the hospital if possible, see to the purification of infected houses, compensate for damage done to bedding, &c., destroyed in the case of poor people, and "in occasionally administering small portions of relief in the form of wholesome food (where food is the best physic) to families exposed by absolute want, to the sudden attack of disease in their own neighbourhood."

(This was under the old Poor Law—the 1834 Act was not yet in existence.)

The meeting voted an additional sum of £500, and passed votes of thanks all round, "for which," says the *Mercury*, "see advertisement."

The Brightside Bierlow Vestry held a similar meeting and voted an additional sum of £75.

The Cholera was not yet done with, for the weekly table October 6th to 12th shows 31 new cases and 6 deaths. (Total 1,336, 396 deaths.)

From October 13th to 18th there were only six new cases and two deaths. (Total 1,342, deaths 398.)

There were three new cases and two deaths up to October 24th. (Total 1,347, deaths 402.)

This week we are informed that Dr. Favell, the physician, Mr. Walker, the surgeon, and Messrs. Holland, Boulton, and Turton, the medical inspectors, "of their own accord and in the most handsome manner offered to continue their respective services, gratuitously, in the present mitigated state of the disease in the town and neighbourhood."

The Hospital at the same time was put on "a peace establishment."

The *Mercury* also states: "We are sorry to add, that since the late Vestry meetings, so many and heavy accounts have been sent into the Board of Health (which from the delay and neglect of the tradesmen themselves, had been overlooked), that more than the whole supplies voted by the township will be required to discharge the arrears."

On November 3rd the *Mercury* says: "It is gratifying to observe that this dreadful disease has ceased its ravages in this town."

On Thursday, December 27th, 1832, the ratepayers of Sheffield held a Vestry Meeting, and voted a further sum of £300 to enable the Board of Health to discharge the arrears and to close their general business. Mr. Montgomery, as Chairman of the Board of Health, stated that when the Vestry Meeting was held in October, there appeared the probability of the early extinction of the epidemic, but that soon afterwards "some very alarming instances occurred of the malignant disorder breaking out in unexpected quarters where the greatest security from salubrity of air and elevation of site might have been presumed upon."

[The prevalent opinion of the times was that Cholera chiefly affected the low-lying and badly-drained parts, but this is not entirely correct. As Creighton* says: "The determining thing appears to have been not so much the elevation as the configuration of the ground; any basin or cup, or shelving terrace, any natural collection-ground of moisture and organic refuse in the soil, may become a seat of cholera, whether it be at the sea level or several hundred feet above it, provided it have a sufficient number of human occupants and a mode of drainage inadequate to its peculiar needs."]

"These, though several terminated in death under the most frightful aspects, were not multiplied to any great extent, but in consequence of that fresh manifestation of the subtle and precarious character of the malady, and the lingering symptoms of its continued presence in the town itself, in the recurrence of new attacks in those localities where it had been longest prevalent, the Board of Health were not enabled to publish a clean bill, or finally to close the Hospital till the 10th of November following. The report of that date announced the total number of deaths 402."

He then went on to show the necessity of keeping the Hospital in readiness so that it would be available in case of any recurrence of the malady, and emphasized the fact that the common experience proved the importance of early isolation of cases of Cholera. He went on to show how the unlooked-for expenses had been incurred because of the lack

* History of Epidemics in Britain, vol. II, p. 848.

of co-ordination between the managers of the various departments and the cost of supporting the Hospital for five weeks longer than was estimated. The arrears amounted to £337 10s. 3d., and there would be also some charges inseparable from the general settling-up of affairs.

He then, in words which are as true to-day as they were in 1832, points out the benefits conferred upon the community at large as well as on specific individuals.

“It must be remembered that it was not *for the sufferers* alone, numerous as they were, that these sums have been required; it was not less for the *safeguard of those in health*, than for the cure of those who were diseased; not more for the burial of the dead, than the *life-insurance of survivors*; for where the pest broke out, it satisfied not itself with solitary victims, here and there, but with greater or smaller havoc spread to their families, their neighbours, and throughout the district where they dwelt. Though the poor were the chief sufferers throughout the whole of this calamitous visitation, every shilling voted by the Vestries for their relief was equally for the benefit of the whole population from the highest to the lowest. Every farthing of the cost has been paid for *self-preservation*, by those who might otherwise have been themselves among the sick or the slain, by the arrow that flew at noonday and the pestilence that walked in darkness. Had the Overseers of the several townships been left to meet the disease, in the ordinary course, as cases occurred, with medical assistance, and compensation for property which it would have been necessary to destroy and replace, to bereaved families, the expense would probably have been threefold, and the devastation proportionately more extended and indiscriminate. After all, the entire charges scarcely amount to half of a poor-book in each township. More than the total expenditure on this occasion was subscribed by private and voluntary benevolence for the relief of our distressed artizans, during the bad state of trade in the summer of 1862; and nearly ten times as much has been collected in extra poor rates in the progress of a single year of public embarrassment from failing commerce.”

“There are yet to be deducted from the aforementioned balance in the Treasurer’s hands, the Expense of the present Advertisement, and some other small matters connected with closing the accounts. The residue, after these are discharged, together with produce of the disposal of furniture, drugs, building materials, etc., in the late Hospital, and at the Workhouse premises, may with propriety be employed in the erection of some suitable memorial on the Cholera Burial Ground, to record the visitation of the disease in this neighbourhood. This, however, will be submitted to a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers, if it should hereafter be deemed expedient to ask permission thus to use the balance which may remain after all the charges are defrayed.

“The above state of expenditure includes all payments for precautionary and preventative measures taken throughout the town and neighbourhood, by the Committee which was voluntarily constituted in November, 1831, when the alarm was first given of Cholera Morbus having reached the English shores, and appeared at Sunderland and elsewhere,—during eight months previous to the establishment, by authority, of the Board of Health, in July, 1832, after the disease had been detected here. The latter Board continued its sittings daily (Sundays excepted) for nearly three months, and occasionally till the 8th of December, after which only one case of Cholera was reported to have occurred.

“Total number of Cholera cases, deaths, and recoveries which were reported to the Board of Health, between the 8th of July and the 24th December, 1832—cases, 1,348; deaths, 403; recoveries, 945.

“James Montgomery, Chairman.”

The abstract of accounts was inserted, as an advertisement, in the four Sheffield newspapers. Not one of the papers made any comment or criticism. The receipted bills were kept for many years, but were ultimately destroyed; perhaps the only remaining one—a receipt for printing done by the *Iris*—was kindly given to me by Mr. Thomas Winder. It has the signature of J. Montgomery authorizing its payment.

The financial details connected with the epidemic were not finally settled until July 17th, 1833, when the abstract of the Treasurer's accounts were read and confirmed.

It is not a statement giving any detailed particulars, but it forms a very interesting document.

The Committee must not be blamed for underestimating the expenses. The circumstances were unusual and there was no precedent by which their calculations could be guided. On the whole, the epidemic was dealt with at a very reasonable cost.

There was thus created for a time a complete edifice of public health administration, which was subsequently to be re-erected and rediscovered.

The enthusiasm for sanitary reform died out when the Cholera ceased to be violent. It reappeared at fitful intervals when the Cholera or some other epidemic roused the national apprehension; but rubble drains and back-to-back houses, unwholesome courts, and imperfect sanitary conveniences still continue to be a menace to the health of the town. To this day we permit the creation of new slum areas, with an astonishing lack of foresight, after having demolished old ones at an enormous expense.

The Orders in Council issued by the Privy Council under the authority of the Act in 1832 gave birth to a powerful Central Authority, which delegated certain of its functions to local authorities, who had large powers given to them in their own areas. It is singular that as soon as the epidemic subsided these powers were allowed to fall into abeyance, for some were obviously of much value, *e.g.* the Act ordered a definite form of procedure before a defined authority to be taken for the prevention or removal of any nuisance which was found in practice to be of the greatest use. Previously the abatement of a nuisance by way of legal proceedings had always been a doubtful and sometimes a very costly method. The difference brought about by the Act is shown in the two cases here cited. The *first case was under the Police Act of 1818, and no decision was come to; the †second was taken under the Cholera Prevention Act, and settled forthwith.

* See pp. 115-117.

† See p. 128.

Sheffield *Independent*, September 15th, 1832.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Board of Health.

Gentlemen,

I am very glad to learn that during the past week some extra attention had been paid towards obtaining accurate statements of the daily returns, for it was rather derogatory to the Board of Health that names of individuals were retained on the List and daily included in the number of *remaining* cases, who were actually in health and regularly attending their business.

Such inaccurate reports daily promulgated under your sanction kept up a degree of excitement in the public mind prejudicial to the trading interests of the town.

However, it is now gratifying to see the cases so materially diminished in number. This will give the Board of Health time to turn their attention to the expenditure, which cannot fail to be very great, for report speaks of professional gentlemen having been allowed the sum of £9 17s. per week; others £7 7s.; and some minor ones £3 13s. 6d. per week. How many there are engaged at such high salaries is best known to yourselves: but admitting there are only a few in number, it is a very considerable sum per month. This circumstance is worthy of the immediate attention of the Board of Health, for every discriminating mind must see the great disparity between an individual receiving from the PUBLIC PURSE the sum of nine pounds seventeen shillings per week,* while the poor distressed man receives a few quarts of soup per week from the hand of charity. Due regard should be paid to economy even during the prevalence of so unprecedented a disease as the Cholera, for it must not be forgotten, that ultimately the very poor themselves will have to contribute towards defraying this heavy expenditure in the shape of rates; for whatever may be said of the high rates paid by the rich and opulent individual, the greatest portion of money so collected is extracted from

*This sum of money would supply weekly nearly two hundred persons with a quart of soup per day, even if it cost at the rate of 2d. per quart.

the hard earnings of the labouring classes of the community.

Further, I think, need not be said on this point, as I feel confident you will see at once the propriety of taking immediate steps to reduce your expenditure in every department.

In conclusion, I have only to observe that it may be said of this communication as of others, namely, that it had better have been sent direct to the Board of Health instead of to a newspaper; but as the public will be called upon to pay this great outlay, they have an undoubted right to know something relative to the expenditure; and I will further remark that those who are acquainted with the management of public business, know how little attention is paid by modern philosophers to the humble opinion of an individual.

T. T.

Sheffield, Sept. 14th, 1832.

Sheffield *Independent*, November 3rd, 1832.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Cholera at Rotherham.

To the Editor of the *Sheffield Independent*.

Sir,

I have been much annoyed at this question, which has been lately put to me very frequently in this neighbourhood:

What is the reason your Rotherham Medical Board have lost so many more Cholera patients than in the immediate neighbourhood?

As this is a public question, and as I hope it has pleased God, at present, to remove this scourge from us, I think I cannot err very far in answering it. My reply is:

1st. No cases were returned as Cholera here, but those which went into the state of collapse: whereas, in all other places, *all* cases of vomiting and purging have been returned as Cholera during the epidemic.

2nd. No persons applied for medical aid until they had tried in vain the various nostrums which have been

vended in the neighbourhood: the consequence of which has been, that when medical men were called in they were generally found in the state of *pulseless collapse*; and in this state all medical men of experience agree that the chance of recovery is very little indeed, under the most judicious treatment.

3rd. It following from the two former reasons, that very few cases have been returned; and those cases were of such a nature as would have died in *any* town, and under *any* treatment.

The Medical Board agreed on the 4th October, to make every exertion to persuade people to apply to them as soon as they perceived the first symptoms of this disease; since early application has been made, the proportion of deaths have been only one in three.

This disease, I fear, is not yet sufficiently understood by any person: when it gets into a state of collapse, there is no known remedy to be depended upon. The directions which the Central Board of Health first sent out have been found so ineffectual that they are abandoned.

It cannot, therefore, excite wonder that the Rotherham Medical Board, like others, should have improved in their treatment by experience.

I am fully aware, and the public ought to be too, that during the time the Cholera raged so violently amongst us, the medical men were indefatigable in their attention to the poor sufferers, both by night and day; they must have neglected their own private practice; and they must also have been exposed to many disgusting, dangerous, and heart-rending scenes—for none knows the horror, anxiety, and watchfulness which a severe case of Cholera brings but those who have seen it: and is it not ungrateful to those men who have done their best to stem the torrent of pestilence, that they should be considered *less* informed than their neighbours, because they have, in such a disease as this, not been uniformly successful?

In conclusion, I beg to say most distinctly, that in writing this I have only one motive—that of destroying the existing prejudice against the Rotherham medical

men as a body; and I hope I have not expressed myself in such a manner as can convey an unpleasant feeling to anyone.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

EDWARD JAMES SHEARMAN.

Rotherham, Oct. 30th, 1832.

This letter from Dr. Shearman is very characteristic. The number of cases cured by the Rotherham doctors is proportionately less than that cured by the Sheffield doctors because in Rotherham they diagnosed the disease more accurately.

The only comment on this letter was from a Rotherham doctor, Henry Wilkinson, who gives details of two cases which he treated.

The Editorial Note at the foot is instructive:

∴ We must decline inserting any more communications on this subject, except as advertisements.
(*Courant*, November 9th, 1832.)

VI.
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENCE.

Privy Council.

20 June, 1832.

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th inst. addressed to the Home Department having been transmitted by Lord Melbourne to this Office. I am directed to inform you that previously to Local Boards of Health being enabled to act under the orders in Council issued in consequence of the passing of the Cholera Prevention Act it is necessary that such Boards should be specially constituted by the Lords of the Council and I am to request that a public meeting of the rated inhabitants may be convened at Sheffield for the purpose of electing from 15 to 20 of the most respectable gentlemen who may be willing to form a Board of Health for that Town and that their names may be transmitted in order that they may be submitted to the Lords of the Council for approval.

Yours etc.

Albert Smith, Esq.,
Clerk to the Magistrates,
Town Hall, Sheffield.

W.H.,
pro. Secy.

12 July, 1832.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. announcing the App^{ce} of Cholera at Sheffield and to req^t that in the event of any o^r case occurring a rep^t thereof in conformity with the enclosed Form (No. 3) may be transmitted *under cover to the Clk of the C-m* in writing and cond^d daily so long as the Disease exists and I am also to request that the names of the present Bd of Hth at Sheffield may be forwarded for the approval of the P.C.

Yours etc.

T. A. Ward, Esq.,
Ch. Bd of Hth,
Sheffield.

W.M.

14 July, 1832.

A. Smith, Esq., Town Hall.

Usual letter (and I am to request that a return may be forwarded daily agreeably to Form (No. 3) stating in the first return the number of cases that have occurred with the date of the first case transmitting following order to A. Smith, Esq., Town Hall, Sheffield.

Council Chamber, Whitehall,
14 July, 1832.

ORDER CONSTITUTING B^D OF HTH FOR THE TOWN OF
SHEFFIELD.

SAME FORM AS ORDER ENT^D IN USUAL WAY.

Members—

Hugh Parker Esq	W ^m John Bagshawe Esq
Rev ^d J Sutton	John Blake Esq
Mr Thos Dunn	Mr Thos Ellin
Mr Sam ^l Revill	Thos Ward
Mr Sam ^l Bailey	Mich ^l Ellison
W ^m Younge M.D.	Arnold Jas Knight M.D.
Cordon Thompson M.D.	Mr Jas Montgomery
Mr Jon Marshall	C Brookfield
Edw ^d Smith	Sam ^l Roberts
Wm Hargreaves	Bacon
H F Boulton	Francis Fenton

See pp. 205 and 206 for short biographical details.

26 April, 1832.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th inst. suggesting the inhalation of Oxygen Gas in cases of Cholera and to convey to you the thanks of the Board for your communication at the same time to acquaint you that the remedy alluded to has been repeatedly tried without success.

Yours etc.

J. Bishop, Esq.,
1 Glossop Road, Sheffield.

W.M.

28th Sept^r, 1832.

Sir,

I am directed to acq^t you that an error often appeared in the total number of cases of Cholera from the commencement of the Disease. In the Sheffield Report dated the 14th inst. the total number of cases reported in the preceding date having been 1243 making with the 3 new cases on the 14th inst. 1246 and not 1236 as specified and that such error has cont^d to the present date.

Yours etc.

Chm of Hth, Sheffield.

W.M.

ROTHERHAM B^D OF HTH.

7th Aug., 1832.

Mr J Robinson Chairman

„ Jas Wilkinson

„ J H Turner

„ Jos^a Turner

„ E J Shearman

„ N O Copeland

„ T Liddell

The Churchwardens and
Overseers

Mr H Walker

„ R^d Bentley

„ I Aldred

„ T Badger

Mr J Anglely

„ J Beatson

„ T Law

„ T Wheatley

„ E Padgin

„ W Earnshaw

„ Andⁿ Crawshaw

„ W Glossop

„ J W Patter

„ J E Heseltine

„ J Calton

„ Jas^s YatesATTERCLIFFE B^D OF HTH.

10th Aug., 1832.

The usual let^r to Rev^d I. Blackburn Attercliffe-cum-Darnall Yorks^e for a B^d of H. for that Township.

C.C.W. 10 Aug 1832 By the Lords etc.

(Members) viz.

Rev^d I. Blackburn

„ G. Greaves

„ Pritchard

W. Jeffcock

F. Huntsman

I. Sanderson

Messrs I. Shaw	H. Sorsby
I. Shaw Jr.	I. Shirley
E. W. Richardson	J. Hawksworth
J. Milner	M. Johnson
The Churchwardens	J. Oxley
The Overseers	C. H.
The Surveyors of Highways	C. Hancock
for time being	(cont ^d on Page 165)
R. Hancock	J. Marsh
W. Marriott	H. Holmes
G. Hill	W. Marshall
G. Johnson	J. Fearnley
D. Deakin	G. Bradford
W. Blagden	H. Charlesworth
W. Makin	T. Carlton
W. Hardcastle	

and thus Sd Bd signed C.C.G.

CHESTERFIELD B^D OF HTH.

12th July 1832.

Usual letter transmitting following order to E. J. Maynard Esq Chesterfield.

Council Chamber, Whitehall,
12th July 1832.

Order of constituting B^d of Hth for the town of Chesterfield.
(same form as order entered in usual).

Members.

J. Muggleston Esq.	Messrs. W. Walker
S. Dutton „	W. Battoson
G. Crompton „	Rev. R. Wallace
E. G. Maynard „	R. Ellidge
Rev. T. Hill	Messrs. J. Wright
J. H. Minton (?)	F. Dyson
Dr. Fletcher	R. Coker
Dr. Robertson	R. Alsop

Messrs. J. T. Cartledge
R. C. Botham
F. Creswick
W. Hall
J. Riley

W. Bower
J. Elliott
J. Lingard
J. Devonport
J. Tomlinson
F. Frith
signed C. C. Greville

Letter Box 107. 12 Nov Sheffield.

B^d formed.

REQUEST BARRACKS FOR HOSPITAL.

When read.

17 Nov. approved of.

Extract of Lord F. Sommersets with respect to Barracks.

12th Nov. Sheffield.

Suggesting printed Papers (copy enclose) to be circulated free of postage.

1831. R.C.P. Notification. Cholera.

"A strong body of troops or police" as a cordon round the affected district.

Hutchin's 91.

Note.—Chadwick's inclusion of Medical relief among the other forms of relief. It was considered desirable to reduce to the lowest possible cost.

[SPECIMEN OF FORM USED

(Left side of sheet.)

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH,
COUNCIL OFFICE,
1832.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of
and to request that in the event of any other Cases of Cholera
occurring at
report thereof may be transmitted to this Board, under Cover
to the Clerk of the Council in conformity with the enclosed
form of return No. 3.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

For the information of the Lords of His Majesty's Most
Honourable Privy Council.

(Double sheet, $15\frac{1}{2}$ across, $12\frac{1}{4}$ in length.)

For the

District.

Date when returned

BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH.]

(Right side of sheet.)

No.	Name and Sex.	Residence.	Employment of Patient: or of Parent or Husband, in the case of unemployed Children or Females.	Previous Health and Habits.	Date of Seiz- ure.
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
Event and its Date.	General Remarks on Treatment.		Appearance after Death, and apparent Origin, in any of the above Cases.		

(Signed).

No. 2.

Council Office,
3rd September, 1832.

Medical Gentlemen who have had experience in the treatment of Cholera, & are of opinion that they have been successful in their practice, are requested to forward to the "Secretary to the Central Board of Health," under cover to "the Clerk of the Council in waiting Whitehall" a short Account of their respective Methods of Treatment of the Epidemic:—

- 1st. When in the Form of Bilious Diarrhœa.
- 2nd. In that of Rice-water Evacuations.
- 3rd. In the stage of Collapse.

Council Office,
11th Nov., 1831.

Sir,

I am directed by the Lords of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council to acquaint you that their Lordships have established a Board which will sit daily at this Office, for the purpose of co-operating with the Local Authorities of Districts, in precautionary measures against the introduction and extension of Cholera.

I have to call your attention to the minutes of Council of the 20th October, a copy of which is enclosed, & to request that you will make known to me what steps have been taken with the
in compliance with the recommendation contained therein.

Their Lordships are desirous of obtaining a general & combined system of sanative regulation, which in case of necessity may be acted upon throughout the country, & it will be the duty of the Commissioners in London, to afford you in the first instance all the advice & information which their situation and their experience may place at their command.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
C. C. Greville.

Central Board of Health,
Council Office,
1832.

VII.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTE BOOK OF THE ECCLESALL VESTRY.

SHARROW MOOR VESTRY OFFICE,
13 November 1831.

Notice is hereby given that a public Meeting will be held in Sharrow Moor Poorhouse* on Thursday next, at 12 o'clock at Noon to adopt such measures as may be thought expedient under the Circumstances of the Ravages of the Cholera at Sunderland and the consequent danger of it arriving in this neighbourhood.

By Order of the Overseers of the poor of
Ecclesall Bierlow

Benjⁿ Slater
Vestry Clerk.

The above notice was published in Ecclesall Chapel on Sunday the 13 November 1831 in the presence of the congregation.

Benjⁿ Slater.

At a public meeting held at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse (in pursuance of the Notice on the opposite page) on Thursday the 17th of November 1831

The Reverend Willm H. Vale in the Chair

It was resolved

Firstly—Moved by the Revd Thomas Sutton, Vicar
Seconded by Charles Brownell Esq.

That a Committee be appointed to take such measures as may appear to be necessary under the present well-grounded apprehension that the Cholera which has been so fatal in its

* The Old Ecclesall Poorhouse in Psalter Lane.

Ravages wherever it has appeared may enter into our own neighbourhood: that this Committee be requested to co-operate with the Board of Health which is instituted at Sheffield. And that the following Gentlemen do form the said Committee with power to add their Number

The Clergy	Mr. James Hall
Dissenting Ministers	„ Marmaduke Clarke
Medical Gentlemen	„ James Smith
Overseers of the Poor	„ John Ellin
Surveyors of Highways	„ Joseph Thompson
Revd Wm Bagshaw	„ George Woolhouse
Mr. Charles Brownell	„ Philip Law
„ Joseph Wilson	„ Thos Watson
„ Henry Wilson	„ James Wilson
„ Henry Newbould	„ Joseph Levick
„ John Newbould	„ John Tillotson Senr
„ Samuel Newbould	„ Thomas Whitehead
„ Thomas Newbould	„ Edwd Harwood
„ Garfitt	„ Nathl Creswick
„ Wm Tyzack	„ Geo Younge
„ Stepn Willis	„ John Dyson
„ Hudson continued—	„ Captn Black
„ Saml Mitchell & Brothers	

(From this point the minutes are written in a different and more illiterate hand.)

Secondly—Moved by the Reverend Willm Bagshaw
Seconded by Joseph Wilson Esq

That the Overseers of the poor be requested to provide out of the Poor rates Lime & Brushes for whitewashing the houses of the poorer Classes: which shall be appropriated at the discretion of the Committee: and that the Overseers be also authorized to give one shilling to each Inhabitant whose house is cleansed & whitewashed to their satisfaction.

Thirdly—Moved by James Smith Esq
Seconded by the Revd T. Best

That the Overseers of the poor be further authorized to make such payments as may be needful to meet any Emergencies

which may arise from the Evil against which, it is the object of this Meeting to provide

Fourthly—Moved by Charles Brownell Esq

Seconded by Joseph Levick Esq

That this Meeting earnestly calls the attention of the Surveyors of the Highways to the Removal of Nuisances from the unpitched streets & roads under their Care, & especially to the state of Young St, Ladies Walk, Coalpit Lane & Wilkinson St, which have been reported to this Meeting as some of the most obnoxious parts of the Township—And that the state of the Sewers also be strictly examined.

Fifthly—Moved by Thos Wilkinson Kershaw Esq

Seconded by James Smith Esq

That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Medical Gentlemen who have been present with grateful acknowledgements for their kind offer of gratuitous Services

William H. Vale Chairman

Resolved that the best Thanks of this meeting be given to the Chairman for his able conduct in the Chair & to the Overseers of the Poor for having so readily called the meeting.

B. S.

V. C.

At a meeting of the Committee for preventing the Cholera convened by Circular at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on the 21st Novr 1831

Samuel Tinker Esq. in the Chair

It was resolved

Firstly—That Benjn Slater be appointed Secretary to the Committee

Secondly—That the gentlemen hereinafter mentioned having been mentioned as suitable persons to act as Inspectors in the several districts set opposite to their names with the assistance of Constables and others in the most populous Districts, they be waited upon to ascertain whether they be willing to act.

Thirdly—That 1000 certificates be printed offering a Reward of one shilling to the extreme poor.

Fourthly—That 400 Certificates be printed requiring all the Out paupers to clean their houses, for neglect of which they will have no further relief but be taken into the Poorhouse.

Fifthly—That the duty of Inspectors and their assistants will be to inspect the houses, yards etc., of the lower class of inhabitant to furnish materials for whitewashing, to leave a form offering a reward of one shilling to such poor as are not in circumstances or who cannot be otherwise induced to clean their own houses, and to take minutes of the yards that want cleaning and of the poor who require clothing and to make their report to B. Slater, Secretary to the Committee.

Sixthly—That the Assistants be allowed one guinea each for each District.

Seventhly—That this meeting do adjourn to Friday next the 25th inst., at Ten o'clock in the morning when the Secretary is requested to make a report of progress.

Schedule referred to in the 2nd Resolution

<i>Name.</i>	<i>District.</i>	<i>Secretary's report.</i>
Mr. Josh Smith	Coalpit Lane Backfields	objects to act
Mr. Maw	Carver Street	very poorly
Mr. Taylor	Rock ^m . Lane	undertake
Mr. Landers		
Messrs. Staleys	Rock ^m . Street	all respectable houses in this district
John Sharman	Bright Street Fitzwilliam Street	accepts
I. Salisbury	Tudor Street Bishop Street	undertakes
Mr. John Newbould	Young Street and Green Street	undertakes
Thos. Smith	Little Sheffield West	undertakes
Rev. I. Fairesh	Highfield	undertakes

<i>Name.</i>	<i>District.</i>	<i>Secretary's report.</i>
Willm. Hall	Porter Street	undertakes
Mr. Ellin	Bramhall Lane	
Clark & Osborn	Earl Street	undertakes
	Jessop Street and Coldwell Lane	
Mr. C. Cooper	Cumberland Street	undertakes
	Hereford Street	
Mr. Jos. Eyre	Forge Lane and Bennet Lane	undertakes
Mr. George Carnall	Hermitage Lane	undertakes
	Hermitage Street	
Mr. George Hall	George Street	undertakes
Mr. Archer	Hill Street	undertakes
Mr. Woolhouse	Sharrow Lane	undertakes
Messrs. Wilson, of Sharrow Bottom	Sharrow Bottom and	undertakes
Mr. Woodcock	Ecclesall New Road	declines (very busy)
Mr. H. Newbould and Mr. Jas. Hall	Cherry-tree-hill	undertakes
Josh. Ward		refuses
Mr. Sheldon	Machon Bank and The Edge End	undertakes
Capt. Black and Mr. Dyson	Milnhouses	undertakes
C. Brownell	Button Hill and Lane Ends	undertakes
The Rev. W. Bagshaw	Carter Knowle and Dobbing Hill	undertakes
The Rev. T. Sutton	Greystones and Dovehouses	undertakes
Mr. Garfitt	Little Common and	undertakes
Mr. Burrows	Park Head	
Mr. Tyzack	Bents Green	undertakes

<i>Name.</i>	<i>District.</i>	<i>Secretary's report.</i>
Stephen Willis	Upper Whiteley Wood	
Sam. Mitchell	Nether do. do.	undertakes
Mr. Dewsnap	Broombank Road	
Jas. Dixon and Mr. Wilkinson	Hanover Street and Broomhall Street	undertakes
Mr. Bagshaw	Thomas Street and Headford Street	undertakes
S. Tinker, Esq., and Mr. T. Naylor	Garden Houses on Fullwood Road	
John Hoole	Crookes	
Wm. Spooner		
Josh. Marples	Broomhill	
	Sam Tinker	Chairman
	Benjn Slater	Secretary

At a meeting of the Cholera Committee for Ecclesall held by adjournment at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on Friday the 25th Nov. 1831. The Revd W. H. Vale in the Chair the following gentlemen were present

Mr Wollhouse, Mr James Smith, Mr Saml Tinker, & Mr Kershaw,

It was resolved

First—that the following circular

SHARROW MOOR POORHOUSE
25th Nov, 1831

Mr, _____

You are respectfully requested to inspect the houses yards etc. of the lower class of Inhabitants in and make minutes of the houses that want cleansing; of the houses wherein there are any persons who are ill; (so that the surgeon to the town may visit them), leave one of the printed forms sent herewith, offering a reward of one shilling to such poor as are not in circumstances or who cannot otherwise be induced to clean their houses;

and to make your report in writing to the Cholera Committee for the township of Ecclesall Bierlow on Monday the 4th Dec. next at 11 o'clock in the fore-noon at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse.

Benjn Slater

Secretary to the Committee.

P.S. It is particularly requested that each Inspector will enforce the great Importance of casting all the ashes into the Privy instead of the Ashes Hole, so as to cover the Soil.

be sent to each of the gentlemen who have kindly offered their services as Inspectors of the various Districts.

Second—That this meeting be adjourned to Monday next the 28th inst., at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

William H. Vale Chairman.

At a meeting of the Cholera Committee for Ecclesall held by adjournment at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on Monday the 28th Nov, 1831 the Revd W. H. Vale in the chair.

It was resolved

First—That one thousand copies of the address published by the Medical Board at Sheffield be printed and that they be distributed in the various districts by the Inspectors.

Second—That this meeting be adjourned until Monday next Dec. 4th at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

William H. Vale. Chairman.

At a meeting of the Cholera Committee for Ecclesall held by adjournment at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on Monday the 5th Dec. 1831. The Rev. Thos. Sutton, Vicar, in the Chair

It was resolved

First—That a copy of an order made by the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council dated "Whitehall 21st November 1831" requiring that all nuisances be forthwith abated and removed be applied for at the Cutlers Hall and an extract drawn from it as a circular accompanied by

an earnest request to Landlords and proprietors of houses in Ecclesall to remove all nuisances.

Second—That 500 copies of the above circular be printed and a copy sent to each and every Landlord and proprietor of property in Ecclesall Bierlow.

Third—That this meeting do adjourn to Monday next at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Thomas Sutton
Chairman.

At a meeting of the Cholera Committee for Ecclesall held by adjournment at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on Monday, the 12th Dec. 1831. Saml Tinker Esq. in the chair

It was resolved

First—That a *written* Notice be served upon the persons hereinafter mentioned requesting them to remove the following nuisances on or before Monday next, and informing them that in default thereof a Summons will be taken out against them on Tuesday the 20th inst., when they will be further dealt with as to His Majesty's Justices of the Peace may seem meet.

Mr Andrew & Mr Davy Mr Thos. Smith Mr Jas. Needham Mr John Cade Mr Rutherford	To repair a road adjoining their respective properties. The Like. To repair Thomas Street, Bath Street and Headford Street.
Mr Geo. Parkin	To remove a nuisance in a yard in Broomhall Street.
Mrs Hill	To remove some rubbish on a piece of vacant land or inclose the same.
Mr Millington	To build some Privies in a more desirable situation for his tenants in Headford Street.
Mr Bacon Mr Josh Lord	The like at Dovehouses and To discontinue nuisances occasioned by his Tanyard.

Second—That each of the foregoing persons be particularly requested to meet the said Cholera Committee at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on Monday next the 19th inst., at 11 o'clock in the forenoon and that this meeting be adjourned to that time.

Saml Tinker Chairman

At a meeting of the Cholera Committee for Ecclesall held by adjournment at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on Monday, the 19th of December 1831 The Reverend William Humpy Vale in the Chair all the parties mentioned in the first Resolution adopted at the last meeting with the exception of Mrs Hill & Mr Bacon having reported to this meeting that they have proceeded in taking those steps which were required of them.

It was resolved

First—That Messrs Samuel Tinker & Joseph Wilson be deputed to inspect a lane in Little Sheffield and determine whether Mr Wostenholm be liable to repair it and if so that they wait upon him and request him to join the Proprietors of the adjoining property to repair it forthwith.

Second—That B. Slater wait upon Mrs Hill & Mr Bacon for an answer to the complaint preferred against them last Monday and ascertain whether they will remove the respective nuisances then mentioned, if not; that B. Slater be authorized to take out a Summons against them to bring them before His Majesty's Justices of the Peace.

Third—That the Meeting be adjourned to Monday next.

William H. Vale Chairman

At a meeting of the Cholera Committee for Ecclesall held by adjournment at Sharrow Moor Poorhouse on Monday, the 26th December 1831 William H. Vale in the Chair

It was resolved

First—That (after hearing several complaints against a Tan yard in Green Street in the occupation of Mr Lord) Benjamin Slater wait upon Dr Holland & Dr Favell with the respectful

compliments of the Committee and request that they would be so obliging as to inspect the said Tan yard and report the same in writing to this Committee.

Second—That the Meeting be adjourned to Monday next.

William H. Vale Chairman

At a Meeting of the Cholera Committee held by adjournment on 16 Jan 1832

The Revd Thos Sutton, Vicar, in the Chair

It was resolved

First—That B. Slater do visit Dovehouses & if he find the nuisance already complained of, not abated, that he act upon the Resolution of Decr 19th last

Second—That Mr Tinker see Thomas Street pitched at the expense of the parties concerned viz

Mr John Vickers	Glossop Road
Mr John Sexton	Thomas Street
Mr. Thos Branson	St James's Row
Mr Bagshaw	Allen Street
Mr Geo Sykes	Ecclesall new Road
Mr Josh Knowles	Headford Street
Mark Hill	Thomas Street

as the above parties agree to bear their individual proportion

Thomas Sutton

Chairman

Notice is hereby given that a Vestry Meeting will be held in the Workhouse on Thursday next at 12 o'clock at noon on the requisition of the Board of Health for the town of Sheffield for the purpose of authorizing & empowering the said Board of Health to provide accommodation for the reception of persons suffering under or likely to be affected with Cholera within the Township of Ecclesall Bierlow, and also to undertake, enter upon, do, and perform all Acts Matters and Things which the said Board of Health may think it expedient or necessary to adopt to afford relief to such persons or to mitigate or remove the said disease, and

also to consent to the discharge and payment out of the Poor Rates of all such expenses not exceeding a specified sum as may be reasonably and properly incurred by the said Board in the execution of the powers vested in them by such Meeting. Dated the 21st July 1832.

(signed)	Sam ^l Tinker	Overseers of the
	Thos Ellin	poor of Ecclesall
	Thos W. Kershaw	Bierlow

The original notice of which the above is a copy was read in Ecclesall Chapel on the 22nd July 1832

Benj. Slater
Vestry Clerk

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Ecclesall Bierlow (constituting part of the town or Borough of Sheffield) in Vestry assembled at Sharrow Moor Workhouse this 26th day of July 1832 in pursuance of Notice published according to Law in the form on the opposite page and for the purposes therein mentioned

James Smith Esq in the Chair

After certain Resolutions had been read which were passed at a Vestry Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Sheffield yesterday a copy whereof is as follows viz

Resolved that the Board of Health for the town of Sheffield constituted by Order of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council and consisting of the following Members, viz Hugh Parker Esq.—The Revd Thomas Sutton, Mr Thomas Dunn, Mr Samuel Revill, Mr Samuel Bailey, William Younge M.D., Corden Thompson M.D., Mr Jonathan Marshall, Mr Edward Smith, Mr William Hargreaves, Mr Henry Boulton, William John Bagshaw Esq., John Blake Esq., Mr Thomas Ellin, Mr Thomas Asline Ward, Mr Michael Ellison, Arnold James Knight M.D., Mr James Montgomery, Mr Charles Brookfield, Mr Samuel Roberts, Mr Henry Clay Bacon, and Mr Francis Fenton be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to possess hold and enjoy the Apartments and rooms in the upper Stories of the Sheffield Workhouse and now separated from the other part of the Building and to establish the same as a Cholera Hospital and also to engage and hire any other House or Building which they

think suitable for that purpose and to establish the same as a Cholera Hospital, House of Observation or Recovery for persons who are or may be likely to be affected with, or are recovering from the said Disease; and also to procure or purchase a sufficient and necessary supply of Furniture, Beds, Food, Clothing, Fuel, and Medicine, and to engage Medical Officers, Assistants, and Nurses and other Attendants at such Cholera Hospitals House of Observation or Recovery—

Resolved also that it is expedient to confer upon the said Board of Health all the powers and authorities given and granted under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament passed in the second year of His present Majesty entitled 'An Act for the Prevention as far as possible of the disease called the Cholera or Spasmodic or Indian Cholera in England' or under or by virtue of certain orders of the Lords of His Most Honorable Privy Council bearing date respectively the 29th day of February last, the 6th day of March last, and the 19th day of July instant or of any other Order or Orders of Council now or hereafter to be made and issued on the subject of the said disease and this Meeting do hereby confer upon and invest the said Board of Health with all such powers and authorities accordingly and do hereby authorize the said Board of Health to undertake, enter upon, do, and perform all Acts Deeds Matters and things required of them under and by virtue of the said Act of Parliament or such Orders of Council as aforesaid or any of them.—

Resolved also that for or towards the discharge and payment of the expenses reasonably and properly incurred according to the estimate hereafter written by the said Board of Health in the execution of their Trust or in carrying into effect the provisions of the said Act of Parliament or the said Orders in Councils the said Board of Health shall be and are hereby authorized to make Application by their Chairman to the Reverend William Alderson one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace living near the town of Sheffield to their Chairman to the Reverend William Alderson one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace living near the town of Sheffield aforesaid to make an Order upon the Churchwarden and Overseers of the Poor of Sheffield to pay to the said Board of Health out of the Rates then or next thereafter to be levied within the said Township of Sheffield for the relief of the poor £1,000. Resolved also that a copy of the above Resolutions be sent to the other Townships of the Parish of Sheffield with an expression of the Desire of this Meeting that each Township should contribute to the expenses of the Board of Health

in a proportion according to the amount paid by each Township to the County Rate, it being thought desirable that all the Townships should be included in the arrangements made by the said Board. Resolved also that the best thanks of this Meeting be given to Thomas Asline Ward Esq., the Collector and the Town Trustees for having called the attention of the public to the appearance of Cholera in this Island and the necessity of preparing against its probable Visitation in this Town. Resolved also that the best thanks of this Meeting be given to Hugh Parker Esq., for his impartial conduct in the Chair. The following is a copy of the Estimate hereinbefore referred to :—

	£	s.	d.
Medical Practitioners, Apothecaries, Nurses, Porters, Bearers, Secretary &c.	424	0	0
Medical Inspectors	126	0	0
Drugs, Brandy &c.	42	0	0
Maintenance of Apothecaries, Nurses, &c., 13 in number	80	0	0
Coffins, Flannel-dresses, Gas, Coals, Water and Soap	143	10	0
Maintenance for Patients	80	0	0
Sundries	104	10	0
	<u>£1000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

It was resolved that the said Board of Health be by this Meeting enabled to expend and lay out for the purposes before mentioned or referred to (not exceeding the sum of £250). (A plan and estimate of the intended disposal of such money having been submitted to this Meeting) which sum is in just proportion to the sum of One thousand pounds as for the said Township of Sheffield taking the medium between the County Rate Assessment and the amount of Population in the respective Townships. And that the said Board of Health shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to make application by their Chairman or Secretary to The Reverend William Alderson or some other Justice of the Peace living in or near the said Town or Borough of Sheffield to make an Order in writing upon the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Ecclesall Bierlow aforesaid to pay to the said Board of Health out of the Rates levied or next hereafter to be levied for the relief of the Poor

of such Township (not exceeding) the sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds if required.

Resolved also that Messrs John Newbould, James Dixon, John Staniforth, Richard Thomas Taylor, and John Lawson, together with Mr. Ingall the Surgeon to this Township be deputed from this Meeting to be added to the said Board of Health, for the Township of Sheffield.

Resolved also that the Resolutions heretofore read which were passed at the Vestry Meeting held yesterday for the Town of Sheffield and copied in the preceding pages be approved of by this Meeting—And that the same Resolutions so far as they are applicable to the Circumstances and situation of the said Township of Ecclesall Bierlow be adopted and considered as the Resolution of this Meeting.

James Smith, Chairman.

Resolved also that the best thanks &c.

COPY.

Notice is hereby given that a Vestry Meeting of the Inhabitants of the township of Ecclesall Bierlow will be held at Sharrow Moor poorhouse on Friday next, the 5th day of October next at eleven o'clock in the forenoon on the requisition of the Board of Health for the town of Sheffield for the purpose of consenting to the discharge and payment out of the poor rates of all expenses not exceeding a specified sum as have been and may be reasonably and properly incurred by the said Board of Health in the execution of the Powers vested in them at a Vestry Meeting of the Inhabitants of the said Township of Ecclesall Bierlow held at the said Workhouse on the 26th day of July last.

Notice is hereby further given that several other matters of great importance will be laid before the said Inhabitants and discussed at the said meeting.

By order of the Overseers of the Poor,

Benjn Slater, Vestry Clerk.

Ecclesall Bierlow Vestry Office,

29th September, 1832.

The above Notice was cried in Ecclesall Chapel on the 30th Sept, 1832.

B. S.

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Ecclesall Bierlow (constituting part of the Town or Borough of Sheffield) in Vestry assembled at Sharrow Moor poorhouse this 5th day of October, 1832 in pursuance of Notice published according to Law in the form on the preceding page and for the purposes therein mentioned

The Revd Thomas Sutton, Vicar, in the Chair

It was resolved

First—That this meeting do authorize the Overseers of the Poor to pay to the Board of Health for the Town of Sheffield any sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty five pounds (*provided the Township of Sheffield shall vote the further sum of five hundred pounds for the Township of Sheffield being in just proportion thereto*) taking the medium between the County Rate Assessment and the amount of population in the respective Townships And that the said Board of Health be by this meeting enabled to lay out and expend for the purposes mentioned in the Estimate (of the intended disposal of such money) tendered to this Meeting not exceeding the said sum of one hundred and twenty five pounds. And further that the said Board of Health be authorized and directed to apply by their Chairman or Secretary to the Revd William Alderson Clerk or some other Justice of the Peace living in or near the said Town of Sheffield to make an Order on the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Ecclesall Bierlow aforesaid to pay to the said Board of Health out of the rate levied or next hereafter to be levied for the relief of the Poor of such Township any sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty five pounds *on the condition above mentioned.*

Second—That this Meeting is deeply sensible of the munificent and benevolent grant of His Grace the Duke of Norfolk of a plot of ground for the Interment of the Cholera Patients in the parish of Sheffield takes this opportunity of expressing their most cordial thanks to His Grace for the kind interest he has manifested on this occasion to the welfare of the Inhabitants of this Township as forming a part of the Parish of Sheffield.

Third—That this Meeting return their best thanks to Michael Ellison, Esq. for having most kindly suggested to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk the Plan of Presenting a Plot of Ground for the Interment of the Cholera patients in the Parish of Sheffield.

Fourth—That a vote of thanks be given to James Montgomery, Esq., Chairman to the Board of Health and to Mich^l Ellison, Esq., for their kind attention and trouble in attending this meeting and giving much information on the subject.

Fifth—That a vote of thanks be given to the Board of Health for the very persevering and satisfactory manner in which they have acted throughout for the benefit of the public.

Sixth—That a vote of thanks be given to the Clergy for having attended the Sick in their respective districts under these distressing times and for attending so frequently to inter the Cholera patients.

Seventh—That this Meeting do authorize the Overseers of the Poor to subscribe the sum of Five guineas annually to the Blind Asylum at Liverpool.

Eighth—That this Meeting do authorize the Overseers of the Poor to pay the Collector of Assessed Taxes for the time being the sum of Six guineas annually.

Ninth—That this Meeting do approve of the proposition of Joseph and Henry Wilson to remove a Well as marked on the plan presented to this Meeting to the situation described on the said plan on their giving a security to provide an equally advantageous supply of water to the public from the latter source.

Tenth—re Elizabeth Woodcock

Thomas Sutton,
Chairman.

Notice is hereby given that a Vestry Meeting will be held in the Workhouse in Ecclesall Bierlow on Thursday next December the 27th at eleven o'clock in the forenoon on the

requisition of the Board of Health for the Town of Sheffield to consent to the discharge and payment out of the poor rates of the sum of seventy five pounds in full discharge of all expenses incurred by the said Board in the execution of the powers vested in them

Samuel Tinker	Overseers of the
Thos Ellin	poor of
Saml Newbould Jr.	Ecclesall Bierlow.

The above notice was read in Ecclesall Chapel on Sunday the 23rd December, 1832.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Ecclesall Bierlow (constituting part of the Town or Borough of Sheffield) in Vestry assembled at Sharrow Moor poorhouse this 27th day of December, 1832 in pursuance of Notice published according to Law in the form on the preceding page and for the purposes therein mentioned

Samuel Tinker Esq. in the chair.

It was resolved

That the sum of Seventy five pounds be allowed and paid to the Board of Health for the Town of Sheffield being expenses incurred by them in the execution of the powers vested in them.

Samuel Tinker
Chairman
Thos. Ellin

24th April, 1834—Report 5th June, 1834—ditto 9th July re Wells, very interesting as regards Public Water Supply.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTE BOOK OF THE BRIGHTSIDE BIERLOW VESTRY.

Notice is hereby given that a Vestry Meeting will be held in the Brightside Bierlow Vestry on Thursday next at 12 o'clock at noon on the requisition of the Board of Health for the

town of Sheffield for the purpose of authorizing & empowering the said Board of Health to provide accommodation for the reception of persons suffering under or likely to be affected with Cholera within the Township of Brightside Bierlow, and also to undertake, enter upon, do, and perform all Acts Matters and Things which the said Board of Health may think it expedient or necessary to adopt to afford relief to such persons or to mitigate or remove the said disease, and also to consent to the discharge and payment out of the Poor Rates of all such expenses not exceeding a specified sum as may be reasonably and properly incurred by the said Board in the execution of the powers vested in them by such Meeting. Dated the 21st July 1832.

Signed	Wm Stopford Taylor	Overseers
	James Holland	of the poor

Workhouse Vestry July 26th 1832

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Brightside Bierlow held pursuant to the above notice Mr Edward Smith in the Chair Whereas at a Vestry Meeting of the inhabitants of the Township of Sheffield held in the Town Hall on the 25th day of July 1832 in pursuance of Notice published according to the law in the form hereunto annexed & for the purposes therein mentioned

Now it is Resolved by this Meeting that towards the discharge of the Expenses mentioned in the Resolutions above copied the said Board of Health shall be & are hereby authorized to make application by the Chairman to the Revd Alderson or the Revd Geo Chandler to make an order upon the Chapelwarden & Overseers of the poor of this Township to pay to the said Board of Health out of the Rates there or next thereafter to be levied within the said Township of Brightside Bierlow for the relief of the poor any sum of money not exceeding the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds that sum being in due proportion with the amount of the respective populations of the said Townships

Resolved also that this Meeting as far as is in its power invests the said Board of Health with all the powers and

Authorities contained in the respective orders in Council relating to Cholera

Edward Smith

Chairman

Vote of thanks (as Ecclesall)

Thursday the eleventh day of
October at the hour of Twelve

October 6th 1832

Jno S Taylor Overseers of
James Holland the poor

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Brightside Bierlow in Vestry assembled at the Vestry Offices this 5th day of October, 1832 in pursuance of Notice published according to Law in the form mentioned on the preceding page and for the purposes therein mentioned

Edward Smith Esq in the Chair

It was resolved unanimously

1st—That this meeting do authorize the Overseers of the Poor to pay to the Board of Health for the Town of Sheffield any sum not exceeding seventy five pounds (*provided the Township of Sheffield shall vote the further* sum of five hundred pounds for the Township of Sheffield being in just proportion thereto) taking the medium between the County Rate Assessment and the amount of population in the respective Townships And that the said Board of Health be by this meeting enabled to lay out and expend for the purposes mentioned in the Estimate (of the intended disposal of such money) tendered to this Meeting not exceeding the said sum of seventy five pounds. And further that the said Board of Health be authorized and directed to apply by their Chairman or Secretary to the Rev^d William Alderson Clerk or some other Justice of the Peace living in or near the said Town of Sheffield to make an Order on the Overseers of the Poor of Brightside Bierlow aforesaid to pay to the said Board of Health out of the rate levied or next hereafter to be levied

for the relief of the Poor of such Township any sum not exceeding seventy five pounds *on the condition above mentioned.*

2nd—That the Cordial Thanks of this meeting be respectfully presented to his Grace the Duke of Norfolk for his very liberal appropriation of land for the Interment of those persons in this parish who have died of the Cholera Morbus & that the Chairman be requested to transmit this Resolution to his Grace

3rd—Thanks to Bd of Health

4th— „ „ Clergy

5th— „ „ M Ellison

6th— „ „ Medical Board

7th— „ „ Montgomery

8th— „ „ Chairman

At a meeting on the 28th December 1832

It was resolved

That the sum of Forty five pounds be allowed and paid to the Board of Health for the Town of Sheffield being expenses incurred by them in the execution of the powers vested in them.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTE BOOK OF THE ATTERCLIFFE VESTRY.

To the Churchwarden and Overseers of the poor of the Township of Attercliffe Cum Darnall. The Board of Health legally constituted by order of His Majesty's Privy Council for the town of Sheffield do request and desire you to convene a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Attercliffe Cum Darnall in Parish Vestry to be held on Thursday next the 26th day of July Inst at the Workhouse in Attercliffe Cum Darnall to authorize and empower the said board of health to provide accommodation for the reception of persons suffering under or likely to be affected with Cholera within the said township and also to undertake enter upon do and

Resolv'd

That the English and Asiatic Cholera be consider'd as one and that no Cholera cases to be consider'd as belonging to the parish Surgeon but a separte charge to be made.

Mr Will Parker

Vestry Office

Chairman

The Select Vestry are respectfully requested to attend a Meeting at the Workhouse Vestry on Thursday Evening next the 16th inst at half past 6 o'clock to vote a certain sum of money to the Medical Board from the Poor's Rate to defray all necessary expenses in cases of Cholera by order of the Vestry

J. Roberts

Vestry Office

Vestry Clerk

13th Augt 1832

At a Meeting held at the Church Vestry by adjournment from the Workhouse agreeable to the forgoing notice it was proposed by Mr. Geo^e Hill and Second by Mr David Deakin that the sum of One Hundred Pounds be voted by the Vestry assembled for the use of the Board of Health or Medical Board which was unanimous

John Whitham Chairman

Present—Mr John Shirley Mr D^d Deakin Mr W^m Marriott
Vestry Mr Geo^e Hill Mr Chas Hamorth Mr John Milner
Mr George Bradford Mr Josh Bradford Mr Thos Corker
Mr Will Parker

VIII.

THE SHEFFIELD NEWSPAPERS.

THERE were four newspapers existing in Sheffield in 1832: the *Iris*, published on Tuesdays; the *Courant*, on Fridays; the *Independent* and the *Mercury*, on Saturdays. The price of each was sevenpence.

In the Sheffield Central Library the files of the *Independent* and the *Mercury* are complete for this period; there are a few disconnected copies of the *Iris*, but the *Courant* is entirely wanting.

There are, of course, complete files at the British Museum. The sets of all the four newspapers for one year are bound together, thus facilitating reference.

The newspapers give very little attention to the disease before its appearance in England, and not very much in proportion to its importance even when it was most prevalent. Their columns are full of more or less accurate foreign news. It was apparently of more vital interest that their readers should be informed about what was occurring in the most obscure European Court, than to bother about English concerns.

The Reform Bill of 1832 comes in for a fair amount of comment, and occasionally the parliamentary debates are given at some length; also the proceedings in the local police courts are fully reported, but apart from these, both national and local affairs attract only scant notice.

There is the usual amount of poetry, occasionally a highly moral anecdote, and every now and then there arises some sort of quarrel between the respective newspapers; in such a case the editor "lets himself go," and each side vies with the other in a fluent stream of more or less dignified abuse.

The advertisements are singularly modern in tone and phraseology; the proprietors of various patent medicines and

other nostrums were wideawake—more so than the authorities—and the testimonials published have quite a familiar sound.

During the epidemic all the papers published the weekly bulletin. There were many letters advocating all sorts of panaceas, but on the whole the public took the epidemic calmly, and this tone is reflected by the editorial notes and the correspondence.

[Only weekly reports as published in the *Mercury* are here given, together with abstracts of any interesting notes published in the other papers.]

Sheffield Mercury and Hallamshire Advertiser.

Oct. 29, 1831 (p. 349). A condensed account of the Order in Council published in the previous week's *London Gazette* giving the regulations proposed by the Board of Health.

Nov. 5 (p. 355). Letter from J.P. recommending observance of some simple rules.

(p. 356)

POLICE MEETING.

On Wednesday last the adjourned meeting of the Police Commissioners was held at the Town Hall. (After some preliminary business)

CHOLERA MORBUS.

Mr. T. A. Ward rose and said—Gentlemen, you are all aware that the Town Trustees have a right to sit amongst you as Commissioners, and it is of course their duty to attend; and if I have not attended so much as I ought to have done, I can only urge as the reason, that I have so much business on hand of one kind or other, that if I were to attend to all, I must completely neglect my own. Therefore, you will perhaps excuse me if I lay before you a letter which I have received from Dr. Thompson respecting a complaint which has produced dreadful consequences in Europe and Asia, and which has already reached our shores—I mean the cholera morbus.

Gentlemen, I am no alarmist, but I feel it is our duty to adopt, so far as possible, the precautions recommended by those who are so much better able to judge than those who are not practitioners. This letter has been addressed by Dr. Thompson to me and the other Town Trustees in compliance with the wish of other medical gentlemen, but I am sure they will be glad that I have taken the opportunity of reading it to this

meeting; and I hope we shall have your compliance in any thing the Town Trustees may do, as well as such assistance as you may have it in your power to give. The letter is as follows:—

TO THE TOWN COLLECTOR AND THE OTHER TRUSTEES
OF THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD.

GENTLEMEN,—Considering the steady and uninterrupted march of cholera through the towns and villages of the continent, notwithstanding the strictest precautions adopted to restrain its course, and that in all human probability, therefore, it will sooner or later visit this country; considering that individual safety is best consulted by the timely employment of means calculated to promote the health of the community at large, but especially of the poor and destitute; considering, therefore, that the dictates of prudence counsel us to be prepared against the invasion of a distemper which openly threatens every country in Europe, I have deemed it right to submit the present memorial to your attention.

It is a fact familiar to us all that poverty and its concomitant evils, distress of mind, poor and scanty diet, insufficient clothing, crowded, low and damp places of abode, defect of cleanliness and ventilation; in brief, that debilitating causes of whatever description pre-dispose the body to take on serious ailments, particularly at this season of the year; and that the severity of an epidemic which may occur under such circumstances is highly aggravated.

Another and not less notorious fact worthy of your notice is that although contagious and epidemic distempers do, in general, first and chiefly rage among the lower classes of society, on account of their more or less inevitable and continued exposure to the operation of the said causes, yet when once called into existence, these distempers are far from confining their ravages to that portion of the community among which they appeared first.

Moreover, an epidemic not contagious in its origin may subsequently assume that character during its reign; and the chance of this will be great in proportion to the number of individuals simultaneously affected and the paucity of means at hand for combating the disease and the effects of local situation.

Again it is scarcely requisite for me to remind you that diseases at this season of the year are not only more numerous, but of a more serious and protracted nature than at other times; that the animal frame in short suffers from the change of season. Neither can it be

necessary for me more than casually to hint in this place that for some time past, an increased degree of sickness has prevailed in this town and neighbourhood ; that there exist numerous cases of what is commonly called fever ; that such cases in some parts of the country have been rife, malignant and fatal ; and that in any place how mild soever their fevers may originally be, certain circumstances may conspire to impart to them a virulent and pestilential character.

I have said that in all human probability the Indian Cholera will visit this country : it will not, you are aware, be the first time we have received a formidable epidemic from the East. If the Cholera be contagious, the visitation may be looked upon as morally certain ; witness the utter futility of every attempt hitherto made to impede its progress. That visitation, moreover, cannot be distant ; after raging in Russia, Poland, numerous cities of Germany, and the southern shores of the Baltic, the disease has reached the German Ocean.

If it be not contagious, it is scarcely possible to doubt that the same atmospheric conditions which continue to propagate it through Europe, will eventually carry it to our island. Past experience informs us that the sea offers no certain safeguard against the eruption of a migratory epidemic.

At the same time, gentlemen, there is another fact, an important and consolatory fact, which I press on your consideration, viz :—that the malignity and fatality of contagious and epidemic disorders are capable of considerable mitigation by the reasonable use of prophylactic or preservative measures.

Under these circumstances and seeing that the absence of a municipal authority in our town, as well as the entire defect of any medical police throughout the country generally, I think proper to address myself to you, a respectable and influential body in the community, and to urge upon you the necessity as well as policy of preparing to encounter that which cannot apparently be avoided.

It is the deep conviction of your memorialist that much may be effected towards improving the wholesome state of many parts of the town, by the filling up, for instance, of many stagnant pools of water ; by the more speedy removal of dirt and filth of various descriptions ; and by the draining and completing of streets, now altogether or nearly impassable, though in the midst of a dense population.

It would be practicable to inspect and cleanse by whitewashing the most wretched and miserable habitations of the poor ; and it would be highly expedient to insist on and make better known the absolute

necessity of free ventilation, particularly in crowded dwellings or where disease exists. It is indeed fortunate for this populous town, that the constant circulation of air is greatly promoted by the numerous hearths, engines and furnaces, with which the town abounds. To this circumstance and not as some preposterously imagine to the smoke, are we indebted for our comparative freedom from fever.

Various other means, I doubt not, you would be able to devise for meliorating the condition of the lowest classes. The chill of winter is fast creeping on the chill of penury; and it is of paramount importance for the general good to alleviate the operation of their unavoidable evils on the human frame; to obviate as far as possible, the effects of innutritious or scanty food, defect of proper clothing, insalubrity of abode and of co-existing or consequent disease; to endeavour, in one word, to invigorate the system and render the mind cheerful. There are no causes which more frequently or more powerfully pre-dispose to disease than the depressing passions.

Finally, besides attention to the accomplishment of these salutary objects, suffer me further to urge upon you the wisdom of contriving such arrangements as it would be expedient to adopt for the sake of the public welfare in case of an eruption of cholera. In reference to this subject there is one point that demands your most serious consideration. We are destitute, totally and entirely destitute, of any means for conveying the sick from their wretched hovels to more airy and spacious apartments, where they might receive requisite medical and other care. You are probably aware, if not let me insist here, that no eventual restraint could be placed on a formidable epidemic if the sick are to be left in their own confined dwellings.

It is impossible to say how soon or in what place this expected scourge may make its appearance. To conceal the danger is not merely idle, it is injurious to the interests of society; and surely it were the height of folly to be taken by surprise after such ample warning of its approach. A calamity which there is every reason to believe we cannot escape altogether, should be encountered not with careless apathy, but with prudence and fortitude. Were the malady unexpectedly to show itself, it would be difficult to picture the ensuing dismay and confusion, increased as these would naturally be by the entire absence of any previously concerted measures for resisting its desolating effects. True it is barely possible the disease may not and each fondly hopes will not reach our shores; yet, while the probability of its doing so continues, thus glaringly continues to augment, the commonest understanding

must acknowledge the policy of putting ourselves in a condition to receive with firmness the verification of that practicability. It is also true, the moment of development may for some time be delayed; an uncertainty this, however, which can ill justify dilatory procedure. And permit me further to remark what indeed is sufficiently manifest of itself that it is by prompt and timely succour by a previous and continued course of means suited to invigorate the functions of the body, not by passively witnessing the protracted influence of noxious causes on its energies, that we can rationally hope or expect to withstand successfully the ravages of a formidable epidemic.

Such are the considerations, gentlemen, which I have been induced to lay before you, not doubting they will meet with the attention their importance demands.

By promoting any measures which are calculated to improve the general salubrity of the town and to better the moral and physical condition of the lowest grades in society you will aim at the accomplishment of a most laudable and beneficial purpose; and by devising such means as might be speedily, conveniently and effectually carried into operation should Cholera attack us, you will contribute to dissipate the alarm which that attack would cause and what is of no trifling import to inspire the public with confidence.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient, humble servant,

CORDEN THOMPSON, M.D.

Norfolk Street.

You have already heard this morning one reason which authorised you to take the step you have done. The Act refers to slaughter houses, hog styes and standing pools of water. These should at any time be avoided, but particularly at the present time. Another object should be to get the owners of those streets and small lanes which the public have not a full claim upon to give them up to the town or to compel them if possible to cleanse them. With respect to the new streets within the boundaries of the Police, I think the Surveyors may be induced to take to them and with the assistance of the Commissioners be the means of removing those nuisances which exist in so many parts of the town. But perhaps the most beneficial step for the present would be to appoint a sub-committee to confer with the Town Trustees on the subject of the letter.

After a conversation between several of the Commissioners and the Law Clerk respecting the extent to which the Act of Parliament would allow them to go so far as regards the streets which do not actually belong to the public, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Boulton, and Mr. Clay Bacon were appointed a sub-committee for the purpose above named, and the meeting adjourned.

Nov. 12, 1831 (p. 363) Form of prayer to be used throughout the kingdom "during the continuance of danger from the Cholera Morbus."

(p. 365) Report of proceedings at the public meeting called by the Town Trustees.

(p. 366) The provisional committee directed a quantity of lime to be sent round the town.

Nov. 19, 1831. Note re the statement in the *Liverpool Chronicle* that cholera had occurred in Sheffield: "It may not be out of season to remark here, that newspaper editors and proprietors are most shamefully imposed upon by distant scribblers."

On the same date were published the regulations of the London Board of Health.

Dec. 10, and 17, and 24 (pp. 395, and 403, and 411). Dr. Holland's letter from Sunderland (*see* pp. 129, &c.).

April 21 (p. 127). This disorder has now reached Hull . . .

April 28 (p. 131). Amongst "Miscellanies." The following postscriptum is annexed to many of the invitations for *soirées* in Paris:—The cholera will not be the subject of conversation.

May 19. It is a remarkable fact, that during the prevalence of the Cholera, there has not yet been presented a single instance of the appearance of the disease at any of the spas in the kingdom. Our reports from the different fashionable watering places give hope of a very profitable season.

June 9. The *Leeds Intelligencer* notices that the disease of Cholera has broken out in the town, and gives a detail of eleven persons who have been affected; there had, however, up to Thursday, been only two deaths etc.—outbreak also "in the hitherto healthy City of York."

June 23, 1832. Par. re Doncaster (disease on the decline).

Par. (p. 198). Form of thanksgiving for the mitigation of the Cholera.

June 30, 1832 (p. 207). There is now only one case of Cholera at Doncaster.

July 7, 1832. Daily report for Doncaster, etc. Total cases since the commencement June 5th, 99—deaths 20, remaining 4, and for other places.

Central Board of Health Council Offices, Whitehall.
July 4, 1832.

Report received this day—New cases 378, died 138, recovered 150, remaining 787. Cases since the commencement 14,919, died 5,541.

July 14, 1832 (p. 222). Cholera—It is our painful duty to lay before our readers the following official notice of the existence of Cholera in this town:—

	From July 8th to July 11th	
	Cases	Deaths
	8	4
July 12th	1	—
„ 13th	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	10	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>

It is gratifying to remark, that not a single death from this dreadful disease has occurred in the house of recovery, and that the patients at present confined there are going on well, which is to be attributed to the excellent arrangements adopted by the medical gentlemen of the town, to whom, too great praise cannot be given.

The Cholera seems to have spread over almost every part of the United Kingdom. The total number of deaths exceeds 12,000.

In Ireland the destruction of life is frightful. Various parts of the Continent are likewise severely infected with the scourge.

(p. 222) The Yorkshire Assizes to be held at York were postponed from July 14th to Saturday the 6th October.

July 21st, 1832 (p. 230).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

We regret deeply that after twenty thousand cases of Cholera in this kingdom, the disease is nearly as little understood as at its first appearance. After upwards of 8,000 persons have in eight months fallen victims, it is melancholy to find that even common precaution is not used. We must again earnestly implore our readers to guard against the first attack of the enemy. Let him not set foot on the outer wall, or the citadel is no longer safe. Cleanliness we demand, moderation we implore, caution we entreat,

and confidence without boldness we inculcate. Since our last the following are the accredited cases in this town, as received from the "Sheffield Board of Health."

(p. 230)	Remain	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
July 16	6	3	3	0	6
„ 17	6	5	1	0	10
„ 18	10	1	0	0	11
„ 19	11	3	2	2	10
„ 20.	The report of yesterday has not been received.				

Total cases from the commencement, July 8th, 24; total deaths, 10; total recovered 4.

Notes of cases in other towns and various "cures" (usual kind of letter from "An Inhabitant").

VESTRY MEETING RESPECTING THE CHOLERA.

On Wednesday last, a vestry meeting was held at the Town Hall on the requisition of the Board of Health, for the purpose of authorising and empowering the said Board of Health to provide accommodation for the reception of persons suffering under, or likely to be affected with, Cholera; and also to undertake, enter upon, do, and perform all acts, matters, and things, which the said Board of Health might think it expedient and necessary to adopt, to afford relief to such persons, or to mitigate or remove the said disease; and also to consent to the discharge and payment out of the Poor Rates, of all such expenses, not exceeding a specified sum as might be reasonably and properly incurred by the said Board in the execution of the powers vested in them by such meeting.

M. Ellison, Esq. moved that Hugh Parker, Esq. be called to the chair, which was acceded to.

The Chairman said that as the Overseers of the Poor had convened this vestry meeting, it would have been the office of the Vicar, had he been present, to have filled the situation which he had been called upon to occupy. He should confine himself to reading the notice by which the meeting had been convened and then call upon Mr Montgomery to explain more particularly the object for which they were assembled. Having read this notice, Mr Montgomery came forward and said, that he was utterly unprepared to make any regular and full statement of the subject before them, but he came with his mind deeply impressed with the importance of the subject upon which they were met, for he

had been a close observer with other gentlemen, in watching the approach of the tremendous enemy that had come upon us. About twelve months since, the Cholera broke out at Sunderland, where it continued for some time, and afterwards crept very slowly northwards to Durham and Gateshead, when it passed over to Scotland, where it raged with some violence in Edinburgh and Glasgow. It afterwards got to the Metropolis of this country, and there it had continued up to the present time; but though the population of the Metropolis was so dense, its ravages hitherto might be considered but few and small. Ireland was the next place visited by this disease, where it produced a most awful devastation of human life.

In this town, although Providence had not altogether spared us, he had only gently laid his hand upon us; and in his name, whatever might befall us, was well, and right and good. We ought, however, to be prepared for Providential evil, as well as Providential good, and endeavour to arrest the progress of the disease in our own neighbourhood, and provide against its further encroachments. In November or December last, a number of gentlemen formed themselves into a Board of Health under the auspices of the town Trustees, and as the expenses did not at that time appear likely to be large, he believed he might state that the town Trustees intended to pay the whole expenses liable to be incurred, for which they were highly commendable. It had now, however, become a question of serious importance—a question of life and death; and there were only two ways of providing for the accommodation of the poor who were afflicted: one was by voluntary subscription and the other by appropriating a portion of the parish rates for the purpose. It would not be expected, as the plague had been on the gradual increase for the last fortnight, and the expenses considerable, that private bounty would be found sufficient to provide accommodation for the poor and defray all expenses; and it was therefore well that an Act had been passed, and recently followed up by Orders in Council, which justified the ratepayers in establishing Cholera Hospitals and other buildings as auxiliaries to the same, and paying all expenses which might be reasonable and properly incurred. Mr Montgomery therefore, proposed the resolutions which had been prepared for the occasion, the purport of which was that the Board of Health should be empowered to occupy the upper stories of the Sheffield Workhouse as a Cholera Hospital, and also to engage such other buildings as they might think necessary, and to provide furniture, beds, food, fuel, nurses, etc., as occasion might require: also, to request the Rev. W. Alderson, one

of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to make an order upon the Overseers and Churchwardens of Sheffield for £1000 to defray the expenses of the same. He need, he said, but read one or two items which the Board of Health asked for to strike to the heart of all—"Coffins, flannel dresses, etc. etc." He was sure that for the purposes this money were required, the ratepayers would most willingly grant it.

Mr Parker seconded the resolution.

Mr Albert Smith explained the provisions of the Act of Parliament.

Mr Crosland, the vestry clerk of Sheffield, thought that £700 would be about the sum required from this township, if the other townships paid their share of the expenses in the same proportion as they did the county rate.

It having become a question whether the meeting should vote £700 or £1000, and leave it with the overseers of the other townships to pay their equal shares,

Mr R. Rodgers said, he trusted the names of the gentlemen who composed the Board of Health, would be a sufficient satisfaction for reposing in their hands £1000, so long as this dreadful disease was amongst us, we must continue to provide for the poor who were afflicted with it. He should be sorry to hear of one patient being lost for want of proper care and nourishment.

Mr. Walle said, that it appeared the meeting was labouring under some mistake with respect to the sum to be voted. Whether £1000 or £1,000,000 were voted it would be the same. The Act required them to provide for all expenses which were properly and reasonably incurred and whatever sum was left over and above such expenses, would be again returned to the parish funds. By the present vote £1000 was the largest sum which they would be empowered to expend although more might be required. He should say that it would be better to say £5000, which might prevent the necessity of another vestry meeting. He was desirous of confiding the discretionary power in the hands of the Board of Health, to go as far as was needful for the purpose of stopping the progress of the disease.

The resolution was put for £1000 and carried unanimously.

Mr Doncaster moved that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Overseers of the other townships, expressing the desire of the meeting that they should bear an equal proportion of the expenses according to their amount of County Rates, it being intended that all the townships should participate in the benefits arising from the hospitals, etc.

Mr Taylor, overseer of Brightside Bierlow, objected to the county rate being taken as the standard for payment of expenses, as the out-townships were over-rated. He thought each township ought to pay according to the number of patients.

Mr Bailey and Mr Jackson supported the resolution.

Mr Ingleson, one of the overseers of Sheffield, thought the out-townships would have nothing to complain of, as Sheffield found the hospital.

The resolution was then put and carried.

Thanks were afterwards voted to Mr T. A. Ward for the active part he had taken on this subject; and to Hugh Parker, Esq. for his conduct in the chair, and the meeting terminated.

26th July, 1832 (p. 237).

VESTRY MEETING IN ECCLESALL BIERLOW.

On Thursday last, a meeting was held at the Vestry of the Poor House, in Ecclesall Bierlow, in pursuance of a requisition from the Board of Health, for a similar purpose. Mr. J. Smith was called to the chair. The Rev. W. Bagshaw read several extracts from the Act of Parliament which has been passed on the subject of the Cholera, and Mr. Slater, the Vestry Clerk, produced a calculation which he had made of the proportion which the township of Ecclesall Bierlow ought to pay, supposing the township of Sheffield to pay £1000. If the county rate was taken as the standard of payment, Ecclesall Bierlow would have to pay £258 10s.; but if the population was made the standard of payment, it would decrease the amount to £242. Mr. J. Staniforth said that he had been in conversation with the Vestry Clerk of Sheffield, who stated that that township would be perfectly satisfied if Ecclesall Bierlow contributed £250 to their £1000. Mr. J. Newbould did not think they ought to note any particular sum in this way. He was of opinion that each township ought to pay according to the number of patients admitted from them, after paying a proper sum towards defraying the expenses of the beds, etc. Mr. S. Mitchell, however, moved that £250 be granted to the Board of Health, if required by them, for the purpose named, which was unanimously agreed to. The Rev. W. Bagshaw moved that five gentlemen be deputed from the meeting to be added to the Board of Health, and the following were appointed:—Messrs. J. Newbould, R. T. Taylor, Jas. Dixon, J. Staniforth, and J. Lawson, together with J. Ingall, surgeon to the township.

July 26, 1832 (p. 237).

VESTRY MEETING AT BRIGHTSIDE.

On Thursday, at twelve o'clock, a meeting of the Rate Payers of the Township of Brightside Bierlow was held in the Vestry of the Workhouse, for a similar purpose to the one held at the Town Hall, in Sheffield, the day previous, viz. the providing of funds for the use of the Board of Health established in the Parish. On the motion of Mr. S. Bailey, Mr. E. Smith was called to the chair. On entering to the duties of the situation, the Chairman adverted to the great advantages which had resulted to the town from the establishment of the House of Recovery, in the success which had attended the efforts to remove the direful disease with which the town was at present visited, viz. the number which had recovered in the hospital in comparison with those out, and urged the necessity of providing funds to meet the necessary expenses. Mr. Smith next entered into a succinct account of the establishment at the workhouse, which cannot but be considered as most efficient: there being medical gentlemen provided who are to attend three times a day regularly, and when otherwise called upon, at a salary of one guinea per day; an apothecary to reside on the spot at half a guinea per day; six nurses at one guinea per week and their food (with respect to these an high remuneration was necessary from the difficulty of obtaining them, two nurses having died, and two lying ill in the house); four washerwomen; two porters; four bearers, and one secretary; and after enumerating the calculated expenses of each department, proceeded to say that there were three ways in which the expenses attendant on these exertions might be met by the meeting, viz. first by paying according to the number of cases, second by the county rate, and third by the number of population, and concluded by remarking, that as the number of cases in Sheffield was as numerous, and as the county rate was irregular in its effect, it seemed to him that the ratio of population was the best method that could be adopted by the meeting in settling the amount of money to be granted by the township. Mr. B. J. Wake next rose and expressed his regret that out of so large a population only about twelve individuals were present. It was a mark of apathy which he little anticipated, when a most contagious disease was raging amongst the parishioners—an awful visitation of Providence. It was extremely unbecoming, but he hoped it might be attributed to the shortness of the notice which had been given. Mr. B. J. Wake said, that on learning that no resolutions had been furnished

to be submitted to the meeting, he had prepared one since he had arrived, and after alluding to the various ways in which the contingencies might be met, and particularly commenting on the partial operation of the county rate—that Sheffield out of a population of 60,000 persons only paid £1,700, while Brightside Bierlow paid £397 with a population of 15,000—stated that he would rather have granted the higher rate for the subject in question, but he would not in consequence of the unjust operation of the county rate; and after adverting to the resolutions passed at the meeting at Sheffield, proposed that the sum of £150 be granted by the township of Brightside Bierlow towards defraying the expenses incurred by the Board of Health, being a due proportion as compared with its population. Mr. Bailey seconded the resolution in a few brief apposite remarks, in which he showed the justice of the procedure in taking the average of population, which he considered the most fair principle; and after a few remarks from the chairman of a similar effect, the resolution was put and carried unanimously. Thanks were then voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

July 26, 1832 (p. 237).

VESTRY MEETING AT NETHER HALLAM.

On Thursday last, a vestry meeting of the rate-payers was convened in Nether Hallam, to take into consideration the sum of money to be voted to the Board of Health for that township, towards defraying the expenses of the Cholera Hospital, etc. J. Wilson, Esq. was called to the chair. The resolutions which were passed at the meeting held for the township of Sheffield were read, at the request of the chairman, and afterwards adopted as the resolutions of that meeting, so far as regarded Nether Hallam. It was, therefore, agreed that the chairman of the Board of Health should be empowered to make application to one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for an order upon the Overseers and Churchwardens of Nether Hallam for £100, being the proportionate sum of that township according to their county rate. A resolution was also passed to request the Board of Health to keep an account of the number afflicted with Cholera in each township.

The following are the proportions which each of the out-townships would have to pay to the Board of Health, in proportion to the £1,000 given by the township of Sheffield, taking as the standards of payment the county rates, and the population:—Ecclesall Bierlow—County rate,

£258 10s. ; population, £242 ; difference, £16 10s. Brightside Bierlow—County rate, £228 ; population, £151 ; difference, £77. Nether Hallam—County rate, £100 ; population, £78 ; difference, £22. Ecclesall paid the medium between the County rate and population—Brightside paid according to the population—Nether Hallam, to the full amount of the County rate.

July 28, 1832 (p. 239).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

	Remain	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
July 20	10	1	0	7	7
„ 21	7	2	3	0	5
„ 22 23	6	3	4	4	1
„ 24	1	6	2	0	5
„ 25	5	3	2	0	6
„ 26	6	5	3	1	7
„ 27	7	6	3	3	7

Total cases 50, deaths 24, recoveries 10, remaining 7.

It is gratifying to find from the above reports that the disease makes little progress in this town from what it has done in others ; but still the arrangements of the Board of Health are such as to meet the possibility of its further extension. We have elsewhere noticed the preparations at the House of Recovery as stated by a member of the Board of Health at the meeting at Brightside, and the pleasing success which has attended their efforts. Those who died, were either persons of intemperate or filthy habits, or were brought to the hospital in the last stage of the disease. Persons of different habits, whose constitutions were not impaired by excesses, although brought in at the collapsed stage, have recovered. One girl who died was a great opium eater, and yet she was only 11 years old. A few days ago a woman having returned to her home, quite recovered, slept in the bed in which her brother had recently died. The bed had been carefully washed, but, notwithstanding this precaution, the poor woman was attacked by cholera during the night, and in thirty hours she was a corpse. In consequence of this occurrence the Board have appointed inspectors to examine whether the houses to which the patients return on their recovery are in a proper state to receive them. A flannel shirt or chemise is also given them in order that no bad effects may result from a sudden change of temperature. We regret exceedingly to state,

that in spite of the manifest anxiety and truly laudable exertions of the gentlemen who compose the Board of Health, there are persons who imagine that such benevolence originates in any other than the best of motives, and the kindest and most considerate feelings. A very slight degree of reflections would have convinced the individuals who, on Wednesday, in the Park, insulted some of the hospital attendants, when taking a patient to the House of Recovery, that their conduct displayed ignorance and bad feeling. The disease has diffused itself over a wider circle. We hope, however, that the activity and judicious measures which are being taken may providentially secure the town from such extensive ravages as the disease has inflicted in other places. The Sheffield Board have given directions for the purchase of a suitable funeral car. The restrictions respecting interment are by order of government, and it is not in the power of any Board of Health to alter them. A case of malignant cholera, which terminated fatally, occurred at Rotherham on Monday. The accounts which have reached us from all parts of the United Kingdom, show an ameliorated state of the disease; while it is painful to reflect that almost every town and village of importance have furnished cases.

By the report of the London Central Board, dated July 26, there have been 21,864 cases, and 8,169 deaths.

Aug. 4, 1832 (p. 243).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
July 28	13	4	14	7
„ 29 30	16	8	1	14
„ 31	24	4	1	40
Aug. 1	35	11	5	59
„ 2	19	4	1	73
„ 3	20	4	4	85

Total cases 177, deaths 59, recoveries 33, remaining 85.

The following is a statement of the number of persons who have been admitted into the house of recovery to yesterday afternoon, total cases 65, recovered 21, dead 22; in the House 22. We earnestly request every individual in the town, who has any influence among his neighbours or friends, to exert the same in endeavouring to persuade those

who may be seized with this afflicting disease, to be conveyed to the hospital, where the best, the readiest, and the most efficient aid is always at hand, and where the recoverys have been much more numerous than in cases where the patients have been attended at their own houses. This striking fact ought to convince the most incredulous. Our readers must be well aware that cleanliness in person and in habitation is the grand preventive of disease, and we therefore earnestly impress upon them attention to this circumstance; and in order more effectually to promote this active ingredient of health, the Board of Health have published a notice requesting that information may be sent to them of any nuisance which may exist in any street, lane or yard, in order that the same may by their orders be immediately removed. And the Surveyor of the Police has given orders that if the requirements of the Police Act, with regard to the inhabitants cleansing their footpaths, etc., three times a week be not attended to, he will enforce the penalties of the Act without discrimination. But we trust, the inhabitants if they value life and health, will cheerfully attend to the suggestions so necessary to be observed at this critical period, without recourse being had to compulsion.

Central Board of Health Council Office, Whitehall,
August 2, 1832.

New cases 391, dead 154, recovered 147, remaining 1,031. Total since the commencement of the disease 24,698 cases, 8,899 deaths.

August 4, 1832 (p. 247).

We are happy in being able to state that no more interments of cholera patients will take place in the places of public sepulture in this town. A piece of ground has been provided near the Shrewsbury Hospital for the reception of those who fall victims to this fatal disease. The fears of those who attend the churches, or who reside in the neighbourhood of our public burial grounds, will therefore, we hope, be altogether allayed.

POLICE MEETING.

On Wednesday, the adjourned meeting of the Police Commissioners was held at the town hall on general business. . . . A Committee was then appointed to aid and assist, in conjunction with the Board of Health, in doing away with all nuisances which came under their observation, and the surveyor was requested to give the watchmen orders to report to-morrow morning any nuisance which might be in their

districts. Mr Montgomery attended at the request of the Board of Health to represent to the meeting the propriety of paying more than usual attention to the cleansing of the streets, and a resolution was passed to empower the scavengers' committee to employ two additional men if they found it necessary.

Aug. 11, 1832 (p. 254).

CHOLERA.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

The bodies of all persons dying of Cholera are hereby directed to be interred in the Burial Ground provided by the Board of Health, near the Clay Wood, as the interments of the Bodies of Persons dying of that disease *are forbidden by law to take place in any Church or Chapel Yard*. And the public are also informed, that attendance will be given by the Clergy each day, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, and at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon excepting on Sundays, when that attendance will be given in the Forenoon, at *Nine* o'Clock, and in the Afternoon, at *Six* o'Clock.

By Order

Jas. Montgomery, Chairman.

Board of Health, August 4th, 1832.

N.B. It is requested that notice be given to the Grave Digger at the Burial Ground Three Hours previous to an interment taking place.

(p. 254)

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Aug. 4	10	3	5	89
„ 5 & 6	27	15	10	91
„ 7	37	9	16	103
„ 8	31	9	5	120
„ 9	30	11	7	132
„ 10	42	16	13	145

Total cases 352, deaths 122, recoveries 89, remaining 145.

At a meeting of the Cutlers' Company held on Thursday, it was resolved that the funds usually applied towards the Corporation dinner,

as likewise the forfeits of the members, be paid over to the Board of Health.

Aug. 18th, 1832. Advt. of Day of Humiliation to be held on Wednesday 22nd inst.

Aug. 18, 1832 (p. 263).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication:—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Aug. 11	37	10	15	157
„ 12 & 13	87	31	27	186
„ 14	39	13	6	206
„ 15	43	10	9	230
„ 16	41	12	4	255
„ 17	31	9	19	258

Total cases 630, deaths 207, recoveries 169, remaining 258.

Aug. 25, 1832 (p. 270).

Brief account of services held at day of humiliation . . . Mr. Montgomery wrote two beautifully appropriate hymns for the occasion, which were sung at all the churches, and a number of chapels . . .

(p. 271)

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication:—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Aug. 18	25	12	13	258
„ 19 & 20	88	14	38	294
„ 21	53	27	53	267
„ 22	43	6	39	265
„ 23	37	11	56	235
„ 24	19	22*	49	183

Total cases 895, deaths 299, recoveries 413, remaining 183.

*16 of the deaths above reported were accidentally omitted in former reports by the Board of Health.

We are sorry to learn that this disease has made its appearance at Rotherham.

Sept. 1, 1832 (p. 274).

Advt.

CHOLERA REGISTERING.

Board of Health, Aug. 27th, 1832.

Many persons who have been buried at the Cholera Burial Ground in the Park, not having had their interment at all entered in the Parish Register, and many Registers of interments that have taken place there, having been given in a most irregular manner, whereby much inconvenience and injury may arise to their respective families and connexions, the Board of Health earnestly request all persons who have buried Friends at the Cholera Burial Ground aforesaid, to attend at the Parish Church Vestry, on any day at Four o'Clock (Sundays excepted) to see that such interments are not only inserted in the Parish Register, but inserted regularly and properly.

By order

James Montgomery, Chairman.

N.B.—The Register will be examined and the necessary entries made free of expense.

Sept. 1, 1832 (p. 278).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Aug. 25	27	7	9	174
„ 26 & 27	39	10	17	186
„ 28	41	8	8	210
„ 29	32	6	41	195
„ 30	32	4	18	205
„ 31	20	8	24	193

Total cases 1086, deaths 342, recoveries 545, remaining 193.

. . . So many specifics have been advertised and resorted to without effect, that the Board of Health have issued placards, denouncing all the prescriptions, &c., and recommending applications to the House of Recovery for advice and medicine, which may be had gratis.

. . . Announcement of soup establishment in Howard Street.

. . . Handsworth—Two cases of Cholera have occurred.

. . . At Attercliffe, too, the Cholera has made its appearance. There have been two or three cases and one death. A comfortable hospital has been provided, adjoining the poor house, for the reception of patients.

Sept. 8, 1832 (p. 286).

In consequence of a request from the members of the Sheffield Board of Health, the Magistrates have called upon victuallers and dealers in beer to observe the laws for the regulation of such houses, and warn them that they will feel it their duty to impose the penalties for any breach of the same without the least mitigation, from the conviction on the part of the former that the evils of Cholera in this neighbourhood, as well as elsewhere, have been exceedingly aggravated by intemperance and profligacy in both sexes.

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Sept. 1	16	4	21	114
„ 2 & 3	20	2	19	183
„ 4	21	7	13	184
„ 5	13	1	16	180
„ 6	16	1	14	181
„ 7	15	3	10	183

Total cases 1187, deaths 360, recoveries 644, remaining 183.

(Note, in Rotherham, 31 cases, 15 deaths, 13 recoveries, 3 remaining.)

Sept. 15, 1832 (p. 294).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Sept. 8	9	1	13	178
„ 9 & 10	20	1	39	158
„ 11	9	1	26	140
„ 12	7	2	28	117
„ 13	11	3	36	89
„ 14	3	0	20	72

Total cases 1236, deaths 368, recoveries 666, remaining 72.

There appear to be only six new cases under medical treatment in the town, exclusive of the patients of the Hospital and the public Dispensary.

The Cholera has nearly ceased at Rotherham. In Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, &c. the disease still lingers.

Sept. 22, 1832.

CHOLERA.

Board of Health, September 20, 1832.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH are happy to inform the inhabitants, that the disease, by the blessing of Almighty God, on the means employed to prevent and remove it, is now so far *abated* in this Town and Neighbourhood *that the* PARK DISPENSARY *may be* forthwith CLOSED, there having been no new case lately reported from that District.

But to secure the general health as much as may be, with reference to the present visitation, and to ward off, as far as possible, such a return of Cholera here as has been suffered in other places (apparently from the neglect of proper prudential measures to avert it), this Board most earnestly recommends to all Persons who feel themselves affected with any of the early Symptoms, such as Sickness at the Stomach, pain in the Bowels, Looseness, or Cramp, to make immediate application for Medical Assistance.

ADVICE and MEDICINES will be furnished at any hour to POOR PATIENTS, as heretofore at the CHOLERA HOSPITAL.

Sheffield.

By Order,

James Montgomery,
Chairman.

P.S.—The Board feel it their duty peculiarly to urge continued attention to the Removal of Nuisances, as well as personal habits of cleanliness, temperance and good conduct.

Advt :

Board of Health, September 21, 1832.

All Persons having Demands against the Board of Health, are requested to send the particulars of their respective claims to Mr. Ellison, the Treasurer, on or before the 29th September instant, in order that the same may be examined, and, if found to be correct, paid.

James Montgomery, Chairman.

Sept. 22, 1832 (p. 302).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Sept. 15	6	1	5	72
„ 16 & 17	12	2	8	74
„ 18	4	0	6	72
„ 19	3	1	11	63
„ 20	2	3	19	43
„ 21	0	1	8	34

Total cases 1263, deaths 376, recoveries 863, remaining 34.

Sept. 29, 1832 (p. 311).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is the official report published by the Board of Health established in this town, of the progress of Cholera since our last publication :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Sept. 22	3	1	3	33
„ 23 24	4	1	4	32
„ 25	5	2	2	33
„ 26	2	0	2	33
„ 27	3	3	2	31
„ 28	2	0	5	28

Total cases 1282, deaths 383, recoveries 871, remaining 28.

(p. 312.) (Miscellanies.)

The circular issued by the Board of Health to the medical profession, requesting that the particulars of such plans of treatment as may have appeared to have been unusually successful in the treatment of Cholera might be transmitted to the Board, has been the means of bringing to light almost as many plans of treatment—all of course “unusually successful”—as there are gentlemen practising physic.

Oct. 6, 1832 (p. 318).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

There are still a few cases to report ; but they are so few that the Board of Health, we understand will shortly suspend their sittings, & meet at intervals of a few days.

The following is the report of cases since our last :—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Sept. 29	3	0	3	28
„ 30 & Oct. 1	4	4	1	27
Oct. 2	6	0	8	32
„ 3	2	1	5	28
„ 4	2	0	0	30
„ 5	6	1	1	34

Total cases since the appearance of the Disease at Sheffield (on the 8th of July) 1,305; total deaths 390; recoveries 881.

Oct. 13, 1832 (p. 322).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

At a meeting of the Rate Payers of the Township of Sheffield advertised in the manner prescribed by law, and held at the Town Hall, on Monday, October 7th, 1832.

The Rev. Thomas Sutton, Vicar
In the Chair.

It was resolved unanimously,

That the best thanks of the Meeting be given to the Board of Health, for their services, and that the statement now made, through their Chairman, is highly satisfactory. That for or towards the discharge and payment of all such expenses as have been and may be reasonably and properly incurred by the Board of Health, legally constituted for the town of Sheffield, in the execution of the powers vested in them at a Vestry Meeting of the Inhabitants of the said Township of Sheffield, held at the Town Hall aforesaid, on the 25th day of July last, the said Board of Health shall be and are hereby authorised to make application by their Chairman, to the Rev. W. Alderson or some other of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, residing near the town of Sheffield aforesaid, to make an order upon the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Sheffield, to pay to the said Board of Health, out of the Rates then or next thereafter to be levied within the said Township of Sheffield, for the Relief of the Poor, the sum of £500.

That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the Clergy for their kind and gratuitous services at the interment of Cholera Patients in the Burial Ground.

That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be respectfully presented to his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, for his very liberal grant of land for the interment of those persons in this parish who have died of the Cholera Morbus, and that the Chairman be requested to transmit this resolution to his Grace.

That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to M. Ellison, Esq., for the prompt suggestion which he made to his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, respecting our need of a place for these interments, and for the steps which he has kindly taken in procuring it.

That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the Gentlemen of the Medical Board, for their approved advice and assistance to the Board of Health in the discharge of their duties.

That the best thanks of this Meeting are due to James Montgomery, Esq., for the able statement of facts, respecting the proceedings of the Board of Health, which he has submitted to this Meeting, and for his uniform readiness to attend to whatever relates to the welfare of the Poor of this Parish.

Thomas Sutton, Chairman.

That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman for his services this day.

Oct. 13, 1832 (p. 325).

SHEFFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH.

On Monday forenoon, a vestry meeting was held at the Town Hall, of ratepayers and other inhabitants of this Township, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Board of Health, and voting a sum of money towards the expenses of the same.

The Rev. T. Sutton, as chairman, having read the notice calling the Meeting, requested Mr. Montgomery, as Chairman of the Board of Health, to give the Meeting an account of their proceedings from the first introduction of the Cholera into this town.

Mr. Montgomery, after briefly explaining that the Meeting had been called in the usual legal manner, said, that the Board of Health, established in November, 1831, was a voluntary association of respectable inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, for the purpose of watching the progress of the fearful Cholera in other parts of the island, and preparing to meet it on our own ground. The Medical Board was a similar voluntary association of the professional gentlemen here for the

same purpose, with a view of especially qualifying themselves to be the active antagonists of the enemy, should he invade our district, and then giving the best counsel to the Board of Health, what measures to adopt for the prevention, cure, or abatement of the disease. From time to time, according to circumstances, these Boards met separately, and communicated occasionally, as the danger became more and more imminent; for, though slow and circuitous in its approach, it was observed to be the case elsewhere, that the malady, when it did alight, broke forth at once in all its malignancy where least expected, and no sooner appeared than it multiplied its victims so rapidly, that unless Hospitals and a Medical Staff were ready to encounter it in the onset, the ravages were tremendous before force or skill could be mustered in any way equal to stay its fury. Accordingly, by permission of the Overseers, spacious rooms for a Hospital were provided in the upper stories of the extensive Workhouse of this township, which, in due course, were perfectly insulated from the rest of the building, and commodiously fitted up with all requisites for the reception of patients; at the same time, two physicians, Dr. Favell and Dr. Holland were nominated as the medical attendants there:—both these gentlemen, at their personal risk, having made journeys on purpose to obtain practical knowledge of the disease and its remedies; the former to Dublin, where it has raged with the most awful fury, the latter to Sunderland and Newcastle, where it first broke out, and where the alarm concerning it was proportionately great. They were thus personally acquainted with its symptoms and consequences, previous to its arrival among us. These precautionary steps were, therefore, wisely and happily taken, for on the 8th of July, 1832, at length the first case of Cholera occurred, and the patient was dead and buried before an alarm of the attack could be spread beyond a few streets in the neighbourhood of his dwelling. Between that date and the 25th of July, when the Vestry Meeting to authorise the Board of Health (which in the interval had been duly constituted by the LORDS of the Privy Council) to exercise the powers invested in such bodies by the Act of Parliament of February the 20th, 1832, and three subsequent orders in council of February 29, March 6, and July 20—between the two dates aforementioned, July 8 and July 25th, thirty-nine cases had occurred, of which nine were fatal. On the latter day, the Vestry of Sheffield, and within the week, the Vestries of Brightside, Ecclesall, and Nether Hallam, concurred in sanctioning the Board of Health in the measures, which they had antecedently adopted on the public credit, and guaranteeing

to the amount of £1,500, in equitable proportions to their several ratebooks, the expense of such further steps as might be found necessary to be taken, in the event of the disease continuing and increasing in this neighbourhood. Under the Act of Parliament, therefore, thus recognised by four of the townships of this Parish, a hospital in the workhouse was opened, furnished, and for thirteen weeks has been occupied by cholera patients. A House of Observation has also been expressly erected for the reception of a class of patients necessarily removed from their homes, where death has been, and who were themselves suffering under premonitory symptoms, or were in a state of exhaustion and misery, rendering them peculiarly liable to the disease,—as well as others, who having happily passed through the several stages of it, were comparatively convalescent, but yet unfit to be sent back to their wretched homes and scanty fare. A Dispensary was opened in the Park and continued in beneficial operation, during several weeks when panic and consternation, not less than the presence of many pestilent nuisances in the streets and alleys, and the excessive poverty of many of the inhabitants of that district had exposed them in a most distressing degree, to the worst influences of the disease when it seized them, as it did, by housrow, and by families at once, in several instances. The happy effect of this was so striking, that the frequency and fatality of the evil were immediately checked, and generally so far abated as to justify the closing of that establishment a short time afterwards. The expenses of fitting up and furnishing the Hospital, the House of Observation, and the Dispensary were so considerable, that with the utmost practical economy, when the work must be done, and done by such as could be tempted, not to say bribed to do it, at the peril of their lives, as they apprehended in the beginning of the business this charge constitutes much the heaviest item in the treasurer's account, and equals, if not exceeds, one half of the whole sum voted to the Board at the first meetings by the four townships. For that, however, there remains upon the premises the furniture, buildings, and other miscellaneous property, of equal value for use to the original cost, and absolutely necessary to be preserved, should the cholera continue among us. And if this should be, for thirteen weeks longer, as destructive as during the past quarter, the maintenance of the establishment will be so much less to the public as the necessary outfit has been. Another heavy charge, under the head of porters, nurses, washerwomen, and other domestic or menial servants, was greatly aggravated, but unavoidably incurred, from the same cause which frightened the hardest workmen employed in altering the building

for the purposes to which it was appointed. Two of the first nurses engaged to attend the patients, were seized with the cholera and died within a little more than a week from the opening of the house. The service of individuals of either sex, therefore, could not be obtained, except in proportion to the hazardous insurance of life, which seemed to be the dire condition of coming in contact with the persons of the afflicted, or even in sight of their abode, and within the range of the terrible and mysterious disease. The terms, therefore, on which these indispensable assistants were hired, were high *beyond* precedent, but not beyond reason in case *without* precedent, for some weeks, but they were afterwards considerably reduced, when familiarity with the symptoms, as well as the end of the calamity, had rendered these humble agents less afraid, from being more experienced in self management, as well as in the management of the patients, and the performance of their painful and revolting duties to the living and the dead. The physicians, surgeons, apothecaries engaged by the Board of Health both for the Hospital and the Park Dispensary, were individually recommended, from time to time, as well as their number increased and diminished, as the greater or lesser exigencies of the malady required, by the express advice of the Medical Board, which was invariably consulted in reference to all business connected with professional services and expedient. The remunerations of the gentlemen so employed were also fixed in every case by the same authority. It is but justice to say of these gentlemen that they were placed in peculiarly trying circumstances at the hospital from the strange and appalling aspect of the disease, agony before their eyes, consternation around them, and the necessity on their part of fortitude, calmness, and self possession, with the discreet exercise of skill and the prompt application of remedies, when all things conspired to dishearten, distract, and paralyze their faculties and their attention. The medical inspectors, six in number, were also recommended by the Medical Board. Their duties were various, disgusting, of daily necessity and personally laborious, in seeking out, requiring, and superintending the removal of nuisances without number and without name, in the streets, alleys, back premises, and elsewhere, throughout the several districts of the town; in visiting the houses where death and disease had been or were yet, in examining and ordering the purification or the destruction of bedding, clothes, etc., etc., and whatever had come in pernicious contact with the persons of the diseased; in reporting and replacing by suitable compensation the damage sustained by poor families in such cases; in occasionally

administering small portions of relief in the form of wholesome food (where food was the best physic) to families exposed by absolute want to the sudden attack of disease in their immediate neighbourhood; and in the performance of many other painful offices to which no pecuniary remuneration (and their scale of remuneration was comparatively small) could have reconciled them, had not a patient as well as courageous sense of duty enabled them to persevere in their labours.

Mr Montgomery then made distinct allusions (though we cannot here follow him) to the expenses of furnishing medicines and provisions for the patients in the hospital; the distribution of medicines on the premises at the workhouse and the Park Dispensary to out patients; the cost of nearly four hundred coffins for the corpses of Cholera subjects, as well as sundry incidental charges of removing them to the burying grounds; with respect to the latter, he observed that the expenditure by the Board of Health submitted to the ratepayers this day must have been aggravated to the amount of from 500 to 6 or 700 at least, for the purchase or occupation of a suitable piece of land for the interment of cholera patients deceased which the Act of Parliament peremptorily commanded to be made, in some place out of the town, yet within a reasonable distance from it. From the dilemma of finding such a spot (which it was next to impossible to procure on any moderate terms elsewhere) the Board of Health were relieved by the prompt kindness and decision of Mr Ellison, who, as the agent of the Duke of Norfolk, spontaneously offered a most eligible sight, in the Park, of which as much or as little as should be wanted might be taken, on terms most honourable to his Grace, namely, the peaceable occupation henceforward of the premises, without further acknowledgment than the debt of gratitude, which, for such generosity will be due to his Grace and to his memory, from the present and future generations.

Mr Montgomery then mentioned that the clergy of their own accord, had offered to the Board of Health, and had faithfully fulfilled that pledge, to perform the funeral service over the corpses, from day to day, often twice a day, without any fee or reward. This they have done for above three hundred and fifty deceased patients, buried within ten weeks in that ground. After going through many minute details and explanations of the proceedings of the Board of Health Mr Montgomery emphatically alluded to the humiliation day which, at the request of the clergy and ministers of other denominations of Christians in this parish, on the 22 of August, had been solemnized in a manner more externally devout than could be paralleled in the recollection of

the oldest man living among us. It was a fact, recorded and unquestioned, that from that time forward, the disease has been gradually declining, and, it may be hoped, departing from the town and neighbourhood. However the circumstance may be accounted for in the course of Providence, the acknowledgment ought to be made at once to the Glory of God, because all the good that is done in the earth, the Lord *He* doeth it. The report of the one day before that of the humiliation was 53 new cases and 27 deaths; the reports of the last ten days up to Saturday, October 6th, were only 34 new cases and 11 deaths. In conclusion Mr Montgomery observed that after the experience of many years in public concerns he could state, that he never had engaged with a committee of gentlemen who were more punctual in their attendance at the daily sittings of the board, more diligent in considering all subjects that came before them, or more self-denying and laborious in the performance of their respective duties.

Mr Ellison, treasurer to the Board of Health, gave a satisfactory statement of the expenditure offering at the same time to explain any of the items;—from which it appeared they had received £1,000 from the township of Sheffield; £250 from Ecclesall; £150 Brightside; £100 Nether Hallam; £200 Town Trustees; and £36 collections at different churches and chapels, making a total £1,736; the expenses already incurred amounted to £2,269 11s., which left them in debt nearly £500.

Mr Wilson proposed the first resolution, which was seconded by Mr Wagstaff and carried unanimously.

The additional sum of £500 was then voted; after which resolutions of thanks were severally passed to his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, Mr Michael Ellison, the Clergy, the Medical Board, Mr Montgomery, and the chairman, for which see advertisement.

The munificent gift of the Duke of Norfolk having been alluded to by several of the speakers Mr Ellison, acknowledging the same, said that his Grace had not the power of conveying the ground to any trustees beyond his own life, but he would engage that it would not be disturbed for any other purpose, and that his Grace would be trustee himself, which statement was received with great applause. During the proceedings the most perfect unanimity prevailed.

On Thursday a meeting for the same purpose was held in the vestry of Brightside poor house. Mr Edward Smith was called to the chair, who gave a detailed account of the expenses incurred by the Board of Health, and in what manner the money had been expended,

when a further sum of seventy five pounds was granted by the meeting, being the portion for that township as compared with the grant made in Sheffield. Resolutions of thanks similar to those mentioned above were also agreed to and the meeting terminations. (*sic*)

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following table shows that the Cholera still remains amongst us :—

		New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Oct.	6	3	1	4	32
„	7 8	12	0	2	42
„	9	9	1	0	50
„	10	3	1	4	48
„	11	2	1	8	41
„	12	2	2	2	39

Total cases since the appearance of the disease at Sheffield (on the 8th of July) 1,336; total deaths 396; recoveries 901.

(Note Police meeting on page 326)

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is a report since our last :—

		New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Oct.	13	0	1	5	38
„	14, 15	4	0	7	33
„	16, 17, 18	2	1	9	22

Total cases since the appearance of the disease at Sheffield (on the 8th of July) 1342; total deaths 398; recoveries 922.

Oct. 27, 1832 (p. 342).

CHOLERA MORBUS.

The following is a return of the cases since Saturday :—

		New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Oct.	21, 22, 23, 24	3	2	9	8

Total cases since the appearance of the disease at Sheffield (on the 8th of July) 1347; total deaths 402; recoveries 937.

CHOLERA IN SHEFFIELD—We are informed that, at the Board of Health, on Saturday, Dr. Favell and Mr. Walker, the physician and surgeon at the Cholera Hospital, and also Messrs. Holland, Boulton,

and Turton, the Medical Inspectors—of their own accord and in the most handsome manner offered to continue their respective services, gratuitously, in the present mitigated state of the disease in the town and neighbourhood. By the reduction of the number of nurses, porters, and other servants, at the same time, the Hospital may now be said to be put upon a *peace establishment*; and so may it continue till it shall be deemed safe to break it up altogether! This, however, it would be very perilous to do at the present time, and we trust that the Board will never think its duties completed so long as any prudent preventive means can be employed to preserve the town from a return of the subtle, capricious, and terrible pest, which, on its second visitation, has made such awful havoc among *all* classes of the community in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, and other places:—We are sorry to add, that since the late Vestry Meetings, so many and heavy accounts have been sent into the Board of Health (which, from the delay and neglect of the tradesmen themselves, had been overlooked), that more than the whole supplies voted by the townships will be required to discharge the arrears. Should the disease, however, pass away entirely (as we trust it is doing), a comparatively small sum only, will be required to wind up the multiform and necessarily expensive business of the Board.

Nov. 3, 1832 (p. 347).

Advt. a/cs of Surveyors of Highways.

(p. 350)

CHOLERA MOREBUS.

It is gratifying in having to observe that this dreadful disease has ceased its ravages in this town, as will be seen by the following report issued by the Board of Health this day week:—

	New Cases	Dead	Recov.	Rem.
Oct. 25, 26, 27	0	0	3	8
Total cases &c. 1347; total deaths, 402; recoveries, 940.				

The next report will be issued this day at twelve o'clock.

(p. 351) Letter from Dr. Shearman of Rotherham (*see* p. 50).

Nov. 10, 1832 (p. 358).

It is gratifying to observe from the report issued by the Board of Health, on Saturday, that not a single case of Cholera exists in this town.

Nov. 17, 1832 (p. 363).

Advt. Day of Public Thanksgiving on Thursday, 22nd inst.

(p. 374) Case tried in Court on a point of law whether the Police Commissioners had power to decide upon what could be deemed a nuisance within the meaning of the Act.

Sheffield Mercury.

Nov. 24, 1832 (p. 374).

Friday.

POWERS OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

A case came on this day, which caused some discussion between the Magistrates and Messrs. Staniforth and Palfreyman, respecting the powers of the Police Commissioners. It was this: A short time ago, a complaint was made at one of the Commissioners' monthly meetings that some of the pig-styes belonging to Wm. Mallinder, in Eyre Street, were a nuisance to the public, and an order was served upon him to remove them. He was not summoned before the Commissioners previous to the order being made, though he was summoned afterwards to show cause why it should not be enforced, but he did not attend to it. It was contended that he incurred a penalty of 10s. for every day the pig-styes remained, after the expiration of a fortnight from the time the order was served, and this was an application to the Magistrates to convict him in one penalty.

Mr. Staniforth, on the part of the Police, proved the notice served upon Mallinder was signed by seven of the Commissioners, after several witnesses had been heard by them. He said he should not go into the question before the Magistrates as to whether the nuisance existed or not: that was not necessary. The Police Act stated, that if a complaint were made to the Commissioner, that any hog-stye, cowhouse, slaughterhouse, etc., were a nuisance to the public, they had only to sign an order upon the person or persons belonging to it for its removal, and if that was not attended to within 14 days, it was the duty of the Magistrates to inflict the penalty, upon proof that such order had been duly served, unless the party gave them notice of appeal to the Quarter Sessions. The legislature, he looked upon it, had vested in the Commissioners the power to decide upon what could be deemed nuisance within the meaning of the Act, and that it was not at all within the jurisdiction of a Magistrate. Mr. Staniforth then quoted several clauses in support of his argument.

Mr. Palfreyman said, if the Commissioners did possess such power, it was a very extraordinary power to be vested in them, but he denied that they did possess it. He quoted what he conceived to be a parallel case, which had been heard before Lord Kenyon. It was where a warrant for distress had been taken out against a person for neglecting to pay his poor rates, without previously summoning him before a Magistrate. Lord Kenyon said, that a summons should always precede a warrant of distress, for it was a maxim of law that no man should pay without having an opportunity of being heard.

This man had not been heard by the Commissioners at the time the order was made; and even if the case had been fairly heard by them, they had no authority to take evidence upon oath. He asked if anything could be more ridiculous than to summon a man before the Magistrates who was not allowed to say anything in his defence, but was merely to stand by whilst a penalty was inflicted upon him? He submitted that evidence of the nuisance must be adduced before the Magistrates ere they inflicted the penalty (which the Commissioners could recover by distress), or his client would be placed in the same situation as the defendant was before Lord Kenyon. He was ready to go into the question as to whether it was a nuisance or not.

Mr. Staniforth, in reply, said that where a person was summoned for the non-payment of his rate, it was only necessary to prove that the rate had been legally made, and that it had been demanded; they could not go into the question of value. He had shown that the provisions of the Act had been complied with and they could not now go into the question of nuisance again.

Hugh Parker, Esq., referred to the clause and said it was very ambiguous; but he could never think it the duty of a Magistrate to inflict a penalty upon any person without hearing the case from the beginning.

Mr. Staniforth refused to give up the point that the decision of the Commissioners upon the nuisance was not final, and asked the Magistrates to adjourn the case until the counsel's opinion was taken upon it.

Hugh Parker, Esq., refused to adjourn it, so the case was dismissed.

Mr. Palfreyman then applied for costs for his client, on the ground that he had been twice summoned for the same charge, both of which were dismissed. This the Magistrates refused to grant, because they considered it only a disputed point of law.

Jan. 12, 1833 (p. 14).

West Riding Christmas Sessions. Palfreyman, appellant—Commissioners of the Police of Sheffield respondents. On the motion of Mr. Dundas, a respite* was entered in this case.

[This means that the case was adjourned indefinitely. As no further record can be found, it is probable that the matter was dropped, as it was no one's business to follow the case up, especially as the cost of further procedure would be heavy.]

Dec. 29, 1832 (p. 414).

On Thursday, at a Vestry Meeting of the Rate Payers of Sheffield, the sum of three hundred pounds was voted to the Board of Health, to enable them to discharge the arrears of accounts due from them for the public service, and to close their general business. On this occasion, the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Montgomery, made the following statements:—

"The last Vestry Meetings of the Parish of Sheffield, for granting sums of money according to their respective proportions of poor rates, towards the reasonable and necessary expenses of the Cholera establishment here, were held in the first and second weeks of October last. The disease had then been three months in the midst of us, when 1,308 cases, of which 391 were fatal, had been reported by the Board of Health. At that time, there appeared the probability of its early, and the hope of its entire, extinction—from the rapid diminution of the weekly average of new patients, as well as the gradual convalescence and recovery of many on the books of the Hospital, and throughout the district. Soon afterwards, however, some very alarming instances occurred of the malignant disorder breaking out in unexpected quarters, where the greatest security from salubrity of air and elevation of site might have been presumed upon. These, though several terminated in death under the most frightful aspects, were not multiplied to any great extent; but in consequence of that fresh manifestation of the subtle and precarious character of the malady, and the lingering symptoms of its continued presence in the town itself in the recurrence of new attacks in those localities where it had been longest prevalent, the Board of Health were not enabled to publish a clean bill, or finally to close the Hospital till the 10th of November following. The report of that date, announced the total number of Cholera cases from July 8th, when the

*Respite is a delay, forbearance, or continuance in time . . . to "respite" an Appeal at Quarter Sessions [Stroud's Judicial Dictionary].

first appeared, to have been 1,347, and the total number of deaths, 402. Between the Vestry Meetings above mentioned and the entire discontinuance of expenditure on this melancholy account (namely, during five weeks) there had been 39 new cases and 11 deaths. From that time to the present, there has been but one case, a fatal one, of ascertained Cholera, in the neighbourhood. This happened so lately as Sunday, the 23rd inst. ; and the patient died within less than twenty-four hours.

“Under the circumstances now stated, the Board of Health are unanimously of opinion, that though the expense of maintaining an establishment be unnecessary (and the whole of it was done away with, at the earliest practicable period), yet it is expedient to keep the premises in readiness, with all the furniture, apparatus, and other conveniences attached, for some time longer ; so that, should it please Divine Providence to afflict the town and neighbourhood with a second visitation (that having generally been the sequel in other places), no dangerous delay may be occasioned and no extraordinary charges be incurred, to open it immediately for the reception of the first patients who may be affected ; for it is quite evident from what we have seen and learnt, by late and severe experience that the sooner the diseased are separated from the healthy the less is the malady spread in families and neighbourhoods, and the more probable it is they may be restored, under direct medical care, attended by faithful nurses, and surrounded with all those comforts and conveniences, which a Hospital supplies, but which even persons in affluent circumstances cannot so readily command at their own homes.

“In respect to the additional, and it is earnestly hoped the last, grant of money now asked, for these indispensable purposes, the Board has only to state the simple facts of the case. Previous to the last Vestry Meetings, advertisements were inserted in the four Sheffield Newspapers, expressly and urgently requesting all persons who had demands against the Cholera Establishment, to send particulars of the same to the Treasurer, that they might be examined and laid before the Rate Payers, in order that the sums to be voted might be in proportion to the absolute arrears and prospective expenses.

“It turned out that the Board had been unaware of the full extent of their obligations ; partly owing to the imperfect information furnished to them by their late Secretary, but principally from the neglect of tradesmen to comply with the request aforementioned, and who had demands of the most multifarious kinds upon the Establishment, in which there were (from necessity) many departments under many

managers. These arrears, therefore, coming unexpectedly before the Board soon absorbed the whole amount which had been granted by the townships.

"When to these were unavoidably added, the cost of supporting the Hospital (though upon a much reduced scale) for five weeks longer, the Board, at the close of their sittings, ascertained their actual arrears to be £337—10—3. Some further charges, of course, will occur in settling the general affairs, the principal of which will be for the building of a sufficient wall to enclose the Cholera Burial Ground. It is due to his Grace the Duke of Norfolk and Mr. Ellison to state that in addition to the space wherein had been interred more than 350 bodies, room will be allowed on either side for further occupation in the same manner, should there hereafter be any unhappy necessity for it. Again, therefore, the Board of Health express their deep sense of obligation to his Grace and their Treasurer, for this most liberal accommodation, by which a tax to the amount of several hundred pounds has been saved to the inhabitants.

"On Thursday, the 22nd Nov., on the recommendation of the Clergy of the Established Church, and the Ministers of other Christian denominations, a day of public thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the merciful deliverance of this parish from the awful plague, was celebrated as generally and as devoutly as the Day of Humiliation had been during the height of its ravages. On both occasions thousands of our worshipping townspeople found it good to draw near to God, as well as to deprecate the continuance of His Judgments, as to praise Him with joyful lips for deliverance from the infliction of them.

"With regard to the amount of monies expended during a space of nearly five months, at the Hospital and the Dispensary in Park, for the professional aid of Medical Officers and the needful services of many other persons engaged in this painful and perilous business. It must be remembered that it was *not for the sufferers alone*, numerous as they were, that these sums have been required:—it was not less for the *safeguard of those in health*, than for the cure of those who were diseased; not more for the burial of the dead, than the *life-insurance of survivors*; for where the pest broke out, it satisfied not itself with solitary victims, here and there, but with greater or smaller havoc spread to their families, their neighbours, and throughout the district where they dwelt. Though the poor were the chief sufferers throughout the whole of this calamitous visitation every shilling voted by the Vestries for their relief, was equally for the benefit of the whole

population, from the highest to the lowest. Every farthing of the cost has been paid for *self-preservation*, by those who might otherwise have been themselves among the sick or the slain, by the arrow that flew at noon-day and the pestilence that walked in darkness. Had the Overseers of the several townships been left to meet the disease, in the ordinary course, as cases occurred, with medical assistance, and compensation for property which it would have been necessary to destroy and replace, to bereaved families, the expense would probably have been three-fold, and the devastation proportionately more extended and indiscriminate. After all, the entire charges scarcely amount to half of a poor book in each township. More than the total expenditure on this occasion was subscribed by private and voluntary benevolence for the relief of our distressed artizans, during the bad state of trade in the summer of 1826; and nearly ten times as much has been collected in extra poor rates in the progress of a single year of public embarrassment from failing commerce.

"The Accounts, as required by the Orders in Council, were duly presented by the Treasurer, sworn to by him, and approved by the Magistrates assembled at the General Quarter Sessions in October last. When the whole shall be closed, the Board of Health will publish a general statement for the information of the Rate Payers."

The Sheffield Independent and Yorkshire and Derbyshire Advertiser.

July 2, 1831.

Letter—Russian Plague, or Malignant Cholera.

Sept. 3, 1831.

THE CHOLERA SPASMODICA.

A series of papers connected with this disease, now prevailing in the North of Europe, has been printed by authority of the Lords of Council. The Board of Health examined, it appears, several gentlemen formerly employed in different branches of the medical department in India respecting the disease, and from their evidence and other sources of information, they have drawn up a detailed account of the symptoms of the disease, and given a general view of the outlines of practice adopted in India. The following is, perhaps, the most important part

of the information, as it contains the preliminary steps to be taken on the first appearance of the disease:—

“It is of great importance that each town or village, particularly those on the coast, should be prepared with the best arranged means to meet such a calamity as the breaking out of the disease now raging in the North of Europe, so as to prevent confusion upon the emergency of the moment, and be ready to act upon a well-considered system for preventing the spreading of infection.

“With this view the Board recommends the formation of a etc.”

Oct. 29, 1831.

CHOLERA REGULATIONS.

Gazette of Friday last.

THE CHOLERA—We understand that a number of the gentlemen of the medical profession of this town formed themselves into a District Committee, and on Wednesday made a careful perambulation of those quarters of the town which might be supposed most likely to be visited by any contagious disorder. Their report, which we believe is favourable to the belief of the existence of general health, has been forwarded to the Town Trustees.

Nov. 5, 1831.

HEALTH OF THE TOWN—We invite public attention to the correspondence of Dr. Thompson with the Town Trustees, on the general health of the town, and the probability of the introduction of the *Cholera* amongst us. We are not of the number of those journalists who thoughtlessly excite the fears of the community with exaggerated accounts of an enemy, who, when properly encountered, has not proved himself very formidable, and who has yet certainly not set foot in this country. We can, however, cordially assent to the suggestions of the learned writer, and join with him in recommending at this particular period, particular temperance and cleanliness. Vast as the improvements are which this town has undergone during the last twenty years, yet much for the preservation and protection of the public health remains to be done, which fairly comes within the power of our magistrates and police, and the influence of our public bodies. We shall look with some anxiety for the report of the Committee appointed to act in concert with the Town Trustees and the Burgesses.

[Amongst Memoranda.]

THE MEDICAL PANIC—The High Constable of Brighton has called a public meeting to be held in the Town Hall on Monday, to take into consideration the establishment of a local Board of Health. This is the first meeting called in compliance with the recommendation of the Privy Council to the above effect.

Nov. 12, 1831.

THE HEALTH OF THE TOWN—We are enabled to announce, that the most satisfactory reports of the general health of the population of the town and neighbourhood of Sheffield, have been made to the Board of Health, now sitting in this town. We do not apprehend that any fears need be entertained of the introduction of disease amongst us, but we may suggest, that it is incumbent on all heads of families and others having information of the appearance of sickness, under any novel or suspected form, to immediately correspond with the professional gentlemen, and others, who meet daily at the Cutlers' Hall, each morning at eleven o'clock. We understand that the provisional committee, appointed at a meeting held at the Cutlers' Hall, to consider of the propriety of adopting precautionary measures against the cholera, have directed a quantity of lime to be sent round the town in carts, for distribution to those who choose to avail themselves of it, for the purpose of whitewashing their houses. The necessity of cleanliness in the houses of the poor, as a preservation against this dreadful malady, and the salutary effects of limewashing in purifying them are acknowledged by all, and we strongly recommend our poorer townsmen not to neglect the opportunity thus afforded them. If they do, they will be neglecting an important duty which they owe not only to the community, but to themselves and their families.

We have to repeat our bulletin of the past week, "that the most satisfactory reports of the general health of the population of the town and neighbourhood of Sheffield have been made to the Board of Health now sitting in this town." We caution, however, our readers, to prepare themselves for the reception of intelligence which may bear a different character. The well-intentioned, but as we believe really injurious, exertions of committees and individuals in publishing their belief, "that no doubt exists of the presence of Asiatic cholera in England, nor doubt that it is a disease communicated from one person to another," have produced their natural effect, and a great number of people in Hallamshire are now in a state of actual *suffering* from

fear and apprehension. It is very probable that in the event of a few cases of violent and fatal *diarrhœa* appearing amongst the poorer and worse fed of our population, that the *cholera phobia* would have its run amongst us. We caution sensible people against this contingency. In illustration of the inconvenience of permitting weak and diseased imaginations to be morbidly affected by all that has been said or written on this certainly painful subject, we may mention the following circumstance. Yesterday week, in one of our public establishments, several ordinary cases of cholera and inflammation of the bowels occurred, one of which proved fatal. An alarmist imprudently but conscientiously gave himself up to the belief that the true malignant disease of Asia had appeared, and instantly sent off the intelligence to Liverpool. The news was duly gazetted in a second edition of the *Liverpool Chronicle*, and created, as is commonly observed on more trifling occasions, a great sensation in that town. The *Liverpool Times* of Tuesday, after quoting our statement of last week, which consequently asserts "the excellent health of the town," says, in a most amusing tone of doubt and lingering suspicion, "we have *every reason* to believe that this (the introduction of the *cholera* into Sheffield) is not correct, and this *opinion* is confirmed by the following extracts, etc." The truth is, that Englishmen of all other people on the face of the earth, tremble most on the approach of an enemy, and perhaps fear him least, when he is in actual combat. We earnestly, however, join in all the persuasions to cleanliness and temperance which are uttered. Perhaps the use of lime may not in all cases be advisable. We think it would be a dangerous experiment at this season of the year to saturate the walls of chambers with lime and water, in which within a few hours people are compelled to sleep.

THE CHOLERA MORBUS.

The Provisional Committee on the Cholera Morbus earnestly call the attention of all the inhabitants of Sheffield and the neighbourhood to the following Address, prepared at their request by the Medical Board:—

1. VENTILATION:—The free and daily admission of air into all the apartments of a house, from the garret to the cellar, is a matter of the highest importance. Corridors and doors, therefore, should be widely opened every day, for several hours. All obstructions to the passage of air up chimneys, whether by night or day, should be completely

removed; as for instance, chimney boards, straw, paper, or other matters. Fires, too, should occasionally be made in spare rooms. Every person's bedding, moreover, should be daily ventilated. Mattress, bed, and clothes are to be removed from the bedstead, and exposed to a current of air in the bedroom for an hour or two each day. The more numerous a family, or the more crowded any dwelling is, the greater the necessity of attending to these rules.

2. **CLEANLINESS** :—Personal and domestic cleanliness, the next important means of preserving health, require the strictest attention on the present urgent occasion. All rooms and their appurtenances generally, cellars, back kitchens, sculleries, closets, cupboards, together with yards, stables, cowhouses, pigsties, etc., should be kept as clean and dry as possible; dirt and filth of any kind speedily removed; soughs and drains cleaned out; and the depots of matters from which offensive emanations proceed, should be frequently cleansed. **OBSERVE** :—1st: That no emanations or effluvia are more pestiferous than those arising from the human body, when they are in a state of concentration; as, for example, where many persons are confined within a small and ill-ventilated place. 2d: That it is these emanations, together with those which proceed from other living animals, and from the vast quantity of decomposing animal and vegetable matter which always exists within the boundaries of an extensive and populous town, which so imperatively demand ventilation and cleanliness. Now it is evident that the only effectual way of diminishing the large mass of noxious effluvia, or vapours, more or less inseparable from a numerous collection of human beings, is by each individual striving as much as possible to remove or correct the various sources of impure air which may exist on his own particular premises.

3. **HABITS—FOOD** :—It is impossible to insist too much on temperance in eating as well as drinking. The food should be plain, wholesome, and nutritious; taken in *moderate* quantity, and after suitable intervals. Long fasting, succeeded by an immoderate, or what some call a hearty meal, enfeebles the digestion, and thence the whole frame. It is the quantity which the stomach will digest, and not the quantity which can be devoured, that strengthens and exhilarates a person. Avoid apples, pears, and crude fruits in general.

DRINK :—Sobriety is here of the first moment. Spirits, especially when swallowed neat, destroy the powers of the stomach, affect the nervous system, and debilitate the entire frame. Let the intemperate, and especially habitual spirit drinkers, beware; upon each, cholera has

in particular made its attacks. Unfiltered or impure water, acid wines, and drinks in general should be avoided. Sound malt liquor, or wine and water, may be taken at meals.

SMOKING:—The tobacco commonly used in this country is a drug of the most pernicious nature. It acts immediately on the nervous system, weakens the powers of digestion, and thus enervates the body generally. The smoke of tobacco merely conceals offensive odours; it has no virtue whatever in counteracting infection.

EXERCISE:—Every person, male or female, ought to regard daily exercise in the open air as one of the first practical duties of life. No weather, scarcely, should prevent it. If neglected, debility of all animal powers will, sooner or later, inevitably ensue. Exercise strengthens the functions of the body, and renders the mind cheerful. It should be neither too violent, nor too long continued. The mind, also, ought to be suitably and cheerfully engaged.

SLEEP:—Exercise must be tempered with a due proportion of rest and sleep. Long watchings, the practice of sitting up late, or indulging immoderately in sleep are alike pernicious.

CLOTHING:—This should be warm and appropriate to the present season, in order to resist the combined influence of cold and moisture. The feet ought, in particular, to be kept warm; let the wearers of light shoes and stockings beware; Cholera is no respecter of persons. As an additional and highly useful means of protecting the body from the effects of cold, we would strongly recommend a broad flannel wrapper to be worn round the loins. Everyone may procure this.

4. **INFECTION:**—The means of escaping infection are simple; in the first place, to avoid being in the same atmosphere with the sick; and in the next, *free ventilation*. This is the grand mean; for if the infectious atmosphere be sufficiently diluted with pure air, the danger of its affecting others ceases. In conjunction with free ventilation, the chlorides of soda and lime may be likewise employed; especially as they destroy all offensive smells. Such are the principal means of securing freedom from the attacks of disease: *ventilation of houses and persons; temperance in the use of wholesome food and drink; warm clothing; proper exercise; regular habits, and the avoidance of all excesses or debilitating causes whatever*. The Medical Board would particularly remind the public, that unless the Provisional Committee be strenuously seconded in their efforts by individual exertion, the benevolent intentions of that Committee must, in a great measure, be

frustrated and its labours rendered of comparatively little value. The danger is common; every man is interested; let every man, then, do his duty. The share of labour to each will be trifling; the benefit resulting to the public, immense. Wherever strict precautionary measures have been adopted, there the ravages of the Indian distemper have been proportionately less. We call, therefore, on each and every member of society to be active in the common cause, and to expect with confidence, as a reward, *exemption from the Cholera*.

Nov. 26, 1831.

HEALTH OF THE TOWN—The report of the Committee of the Board of Health of this town, at their sitting of yesterday, is highly satisfactory. It appears that the sickness which is ordinarily observed at this season is less general and dangerous during the present than it has shown itself to be during some previous years. The recommendation of the overseers, about the use of lime, has very generally been attended to and some thousands of houses occupied by the humble classes of society have been purified.

Dec. 3, 1831.

HINT TO BOARD OF HEALTH—During the examination of some disorderly persons before the Magistrates yesterday (Friday) Crookes, an experienced watchman, asserted that having occasion on Thursday at midnight to enter a certain dwelling house in the Isle, called Mop Sam's, he found in one room (about four yards by four and a half) no fewer than fifteen individuals, men and women, huddled together, and in the room immediately above it fourteen others.

Dec. 10, 1831.

THE CHOLERA—The disease which has received this name continues to infest Sunderland. The new cases, however, appear to decrease. On the 1st instant, 8 new cases were reported; on the 2nd, 17; on 3rd, 7; 4th, 5; 5th, 5; and 6th, 6. From the commencement of the disease (October 26) to the last date, it appears that 366 cases have occurred, 119 of which have proved fatal. We are enabled to publish the following letter by the courtesy of T. A. Ward, Esq., to whom the letter is addressed:—

Newcastle, Thursday evening, Dec. 8.

My dear Sir,—The very kind introductions of the Board of Health, of which you have the honour to be chairman, have afforded me here every possible facility necessary to promote the accomplishment of the object in which I am anxiously engaged. Of the politeness of the Mayor of Newcastle, and of his great readiness to render

me here every possible assistance, as well as at Sunderland, I cannot speak in too high terms. I am now induced to write in consequence of the supposed occurrence of two cases at this place within the last 24 hours. These cases, I have no doubt, will make some noise in the country, and, perhaps, much greater than they are by any means entitled to do. I have had the good fortune to see the dissection of one, which, I believe, is considered to be the more suspicious of the two, and I shall therefore confine my observations to it. These must necessarily be brief, as the post allows me a few minutes only.

Maria Mills, a common prostitute, aged 42, living in the filthiest part of Newcastle, was seized yesterday with symptoms of sinking, or sudden depression of the vital powers, accompanied with slight vomiting and purging; the two latter symptoms were not observed by the medical gentlemen in attendance; they are stated on the authority of those who waited upon her. She died in eleven hours from the commencement of the attack, without anything like reaction appearing during this time. Before I say anything of the appearances on dissection, I must beg leave to remark that this individual had, for many years, led the most dissolute, irregular life; was particularly addicted to ardent spirits, indeed, the smell of rum was exceedingly offensive on opening the stomach; and moreover she resided in a most filthy and ill-ventilated situation, much worse in these respects than the dirtiest places in Sheffield, not excepting the Isle.

Dissection: The external appearance of the body did not present anything sufficiently striking to excite the attention of the observer, which is always the case in the malignant or Asiatic form of the disease. On opening the chest, the lungs did not collapse, which they almost always do when the symptoms during life were of a very decided character. The liver, the spleen, the stomach, the smaller and the larger intestines were little removed from the natural condition. The two latter were somewhat more vascular than usual, but slightly so, and contained a fluid like common gruel. I may say, to conclude, as I have not a moment to spare, that this case presented none of the *well-marked* or *essential* symptoms of that form of Cholera of which we had heard so much.

I remain, Most truly yours,

G. C. Holland, M.D.

Dec. 24, 1831.

TOWN HALL.

TUESDAY.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH—This day the Rev. Mr. Pritchard, of Attercliffe, appeared before the bench and prayed its interference for the removal of certain nuisances in a place or passage called Back Lane, in Attercliffe. Mr. Hoole, who attended as the friend of the complainant, stated that the application to the magistrates was made in virtue of the late proclamation, which gave justices of the peace authority to order overseers of the poor to remove nuisances which were declared by professional authority to be dangerous to the public health. A certificate that the place named was in the state complained of, signed by Dr. Knight, having been tendered, the magistrates immediately made the order required. (This is the first order which has been issued by the magistrates of this district in consequence of the Royal Proclamation alluded to. It was understood in the court room that the application was not made in consequence of any disinclination on the part of the overseers to abate any nuisance complained of by the public, but on account of some doubt entertained whether they could act without the order of the magistrates. The consequence of overseers neglecting to obey an order made under the circumstances described, is simply that an indictment for a *misdemeanour* would be entertained against them at the quarter sessions. The public will not, perhaps, need reminding that an opportunity is now afforded of abolishing long existing and dangerous nuisances to be found in certain parts of the town.)

This was obviously a collusive action. The overseers did not appreciate the extent or the value of the powers given them for the time being, and they approached the subject of reform with considerable diffidence. Besides this (following the usual custom of such bodies), they were anxious to avoid hurting the feelings or the pockets of the owners of insanitary property. This trait comes out very strongly in the reports of the London Sanitary Commission, which the *laissez faire* doctrine was held to apply in its worst form to insanitary habitations.

Jan. 14, 1832. Note on supposed case at Doncaster.

Jan. 21, 1832.

A Meeting was held last week, at the Rodes' Arms, in Barlbro', to establish a Board of Health, under the name of the North-East Derbyshire Board of Health, and considered as a branch of the Sheffield Board. Sir George Sitwell kindly accepted the office of Chairman, and Mr. Wm. Askham was appointed Secretary.

Dec. 17, 1831.

DR. HOLLAND'S VISIT TO SUNDERLAND.

"Sunderland, Dec. 12, 1831.

"I have been engaged since 10 o'clock this morning until now in one of the most disagreeable undertakings with which I was ever occupied—visiting the dying, the convulsed, and the dead. It is impossible for any person at a distance entirely unacquainted with the localities of this place to form any just conception of the extent of misery and disease prevailing here among the lowest and most unfortunate of the human species. I have seen in Edinburgh and elsewhere those classes of individuals called the lower orders of society, but these are indeed comfortably situated when in every respect compared with the same classes here. The description of the first case which I saw this morning will enable you to form some idea of the truth of this remark. I accompanied one of the resident surgeons of Sunderland to see a patient who had been attacked some hours with symptoms of Cholera, but had not been seen by any medical gentleman. He lived in one of the alleys in which the disease first broke out and in which its progress has been most decided and fatal. The alley is about three or four yards wide, 200 in length, formed by houses from three to five stories high, and has in the middle a channel, the receptacle of every kind of filth, to discover which requires no particular observation nor acute sense of smell, but, on the contrary, a vast deal of circumspection to avoid forming an intimate connexion with it. The atmosphere is extremely offensive to a *sound* nose, but it is gratifying to find that a few days devoted to visiting such miserable places soon destroys that fine sensibility of this organ, which occasionally is the source of so many exquisite pleasures. An entry about the middle of this alley led to the general door of the house, but then we had to descend about twenty steps in order to reach the apartment of the sick, which was a small room with a bed in one corner of it and so dark that I was at least a minute before I discovered the patient, who proved to be an old man about sixty years of age. His wife was sick in the same bed with him, but was able to sit up; his daughter was sitting at the head of the bed supporting him, and a dirty grandchild was amusing itself with the old man's face, who seemed unconscious of its playfulness. There were seven or eight women in the room—some crying, some drinking,—but all certainly extremely noisy, as you will naturally conclude when such a number of such characters and under such circumstances are congregated together. The atmosphere of this filthy hovel gave me a severe headache, pain in the

chest, and a disagreeable taste in the mouth which lasted for several hours. The old man, unless vigorously aroused, was seemingly insensible. After considerable persuasion, both he and his wife consented to go to the Cholera Hospital, which, like all such institutions, formed under circumstances like the present is viewed, but unjustly, with feelings of abhorrence, by those who are in the greatest need of its assistance. It is superintended by two very talented and indefatigable gentlemen, Dr. Haslewood and Mr. Mordey, surgeon, who cannot be too highly praised for their exertions or too much respected for the urbanity of their manners, displayed towards all strangers desirous of investigating the disease. They afford every facility necessary. I visited the old man twice in the hospital; but it was evident from the first that he would not recover. The vital powers sunk gradually, and he died about five hours after his admission.

"In one of my visits to him a circumstance occurred somewhat alarming in its nature. Whilst passing the ward my attention was attracted by a loud and sudden cry from a distant corner, which I found to proceed from one of the nurses, who was seemingly seized with cholera, although a moment before she was attending to the sick as usual. She was immediately bled; stimulants were given; friction was employed. But in spite of the prompt application of such active measures, strong spasms seized the lower extremities and she complained bitterly of an acute pain at the pit of the stomach and the small of the back. Salt and warm water were given, which caused vomiting, and to our astonishment she ejected pieces of meat about an inch and a half in length and above (about) as thick as the thumb, entirely unacted upon by the gastric juice, although they had been *bolting* the day before. This case made some of us think that we breathed the very atmosphere of death. The probability seemed that next it might be our turn—a thought by no means agreeable to a person in good health. The finest susceptibilities of the soul become blunted by the frequent sights of misery and distress, and you cannot indeed feel for those who die here as you would unavoidably feel in the ordinary cases of mortality, for they are really little more than animated masses of dirt and filth. You cannot look on them and think of the 'human face divine' and its associated perfections and sentiments. The only precaution we take after an examination of the sick, is to wash our hands and to live generously, by which term you must understand—(nothing like definitions and illustrations)—a person eating what he likes and finds it agrees with him and drinking several glasses of excellent wine per day, or a small quantity of brandy and water, but only, as the Temperance Society

would say, as medicine. You must have clear notions on this point. Water doctors may do very well in cases of fever, but in cases of health mankind generally would be much benefited if the doctors drank the whole of the water which they prescribe. *In medio tutissimus ibis*. I wonder how long mankind will be before they discover that the true enjoyments of life consist not in abusing, but in using the good things of the world.

"I have no doubt that the disease is both contagious and non-contagious. To explain myself fully respecting the latter opinion would compel me to write more than you would like to read, and therefore we will pass it over. In support of the former, it is easy to produce evidence which is everything but demonstrative; and of this kind of proof the subject does not admit. It is not at all uncommon in our daily visits to find that two or three of a family have been swept away in rapid succession, the disease apparently passing from one to the other; such evidence, however, is quite insufficient to satisfy the non-contagionist. He demands something like ocular demonstration, which is rather difficult to adduce. I have not yet certainly seen the disease unconnected with a living body in the appalling attitude of springing upon its unconscious victim, but if I should, the phenomenon shall be immediately communicated to you; or if I should be so fortunate, which is still more to be desired as to secure this destructive and insidious gentleman at the moment before he alights, I purpose sending him to Sheffield with the strong injunction that you do not on any pretence whatever allow him to run at large, or, what is scarcely less important, entrust him to the care of medical gentlemen unless they can satisfy you that they are *fully* occupied; if not, their natural curiosity might prompt them to let him loose, in order to ascertain whether he had lost by travelling, or change of situation, in all his far-famed powers. Cholera at Sunderland has the omnivorous properties of Aaron's rod. It swallows every other disease. We never see here anything like common fever; bowel complaints, sickness or vomiting from ordinary causes, death by intoxication, nay, hysteria itself, has lost its individual existence, and how many other affections I have not clearly ascertained. I saw hysteria depart this life so late as last night. I tried hard to preserve it; but, in spite of all my exertions, it was swallowed by this voracious disease!

"I accompanied Dr. —, a resident physician of Sunderland, to see a young girl who was said to be dying of cholera. She lived in the alley described in the commencement of this letter. The patient was about 14 years of age; when we arrived she was and had been for some

time in as complete a fit of hysteria as I ever saw in my life. Dr. — was inclined to bleed, as he had strong suspicions of this prevailing disease. To this I begged leave to offer an objection, in consequence of the evident nature of the affection and the delicate constitution of the patient, judging from appearance. I proposed rubbing common salt upon the gums, which was acceded to, and the girl almost immediately revived. He, however, seemed to retain his original impressions, and as he promised to see her again in half an hour, she was most probably ultimately bled. It is indeed, my dear Sir, melancholy to observe the want of proper discrimination manifested here by too many in the examination of disease—the disposition strikingly displayed to see nothing but cholera and to treat it according to the ever-varying notions entertained concerning its nature. We have here no settled precision of practice—no established rules to direct the employment of remedies proved by repeated trials to be generally the most efficient—one bleeds as soon as he is called in—another uses the warm bath, a third laudanum and brandy—a fourth stimulates the spine—a fifth gives salt and warm water—a sixth the carbonate of soda—a seventh makes his patient inhale pure hydrogen—an eighth gives calomel and opium—a ninth does everything as they all in turns do! This empirical treatment is attributed solely to the want of anything like clear notions concerning the nature of the disease—one has his attention fixed entirely upon the liver—another upon the vitiated secretions in the alimentary canal—a third on the diseased action of the ganglionic system of nerves—a fifth a general sinking of the vital powers from the morbid influence of some poison on the nervous system generally—a sixth is quite sure that the spinal marrow is in fault—a seventh talks of spasms of the internal organs—an eighth of animalculæ which enter by the skin but which he acknowledges he has never seen; he becomes, however, quite angry if you hint an objection on the ground that they have never been detected. He, in an exasperated tone, asks if a person is to believe nothing but what he sees? One is thus charged with being sceptical, although I am very moderate in my demands, giving him my word that I will implicitly adopt his views if he will only show me one of the little rogues that have made and *silenced* so much noise in the world. The request to see one makes him more indignant than if I had asked to see a regiment. A ninth—but I must stop with numbers, or I shall fatigue you with counting! This, as far as it goes, is a faithful picture of things as they at present exist at Sunderland, and with slight modifications will also apply to Newcastle.

"The disease at Sunderland, I am thoroughly persuaded has a spontaneous origin. I have visited the places in which it first broke out and in which it has almost exclusively prevailed up to this moment, and my surprise is not that it appeared two months ago, but that it did not appear earlier and that it has not been more general and fatal in its course. The atmosphere of the hovels in which it exists is too impure for a person unaccustomed to it to breathe it for a very short time without having nausea, headache, or an unpleasant taste in his mouth; and although the regular inmates of them are decidedly less susceptible of its influence, nature, however, even in them may be oppressed—may sicken and die from want of good air and cleanliness and a regard to those things calculated to promote health and happiness. The by-streets and lanes are at this moment in a most disgraceful condition—filth and dirt of every description are permitted to lie the whole day in them—in fact, they are only removed, and then partially, by successive showers. The miserable hovels are precisely in the state in which they were previous to the appearance of cholera. No indications of recent whitewashing are perceived. I am told that the streets and alleys were, a few weeks ago, attended to by the authorities of the town; and although they seem bad now, they assure me that they are wholesome and cleanly in appearance compared with what they were previous to the disease breaking out here. You, I dare say, imagine that the medical gentlemen sent down by government to examine into the nature of the disease are altogether employed in putting in operation the great and valued means which their experience or distinguished understandings suggest—that they, in fact, attend to the management of cholera patients. The management of the patient rests entirely with the practitioner under whose care they may happen to fall. He informs these medical officers every morning of the number of new cases, and likewise of the recoveries in his practice—and here ends his duty to them and their connexion with him. This mode of procedure accounts in part for the diversities of treatment pursued and recommended. As long as they are so conducted, it will be impossible to possess anything like clear and correct ideas concerning the nature of the disease or the likeliest means to cure it. The object ought to be so to arrange the cases that the facts which they individually present previous to and subsequent to death; the symptoms, the kind of treatment and its success; appearances on dissection and, indeed, every part, whether intimately or remotely connected with the disease, ought to be possessed by a few individuals whose years and talents place them at the head of the profession, so that something like general principles might be deduced

from them to regulate the practice of others less favourably circumstanced to arrive at truth involved in uncertainty and difficulty. The termination of this sheet compels me rather abruptly to conclude.

"I remain, Most truly yours,

"G. C. Holland, M.D."

(SECOND COMMUNICATION FROM DR. HOLLAND.)

"Sunderland, Dec. 15, 1831.

"Since I last wrote, I have had abundant opportunities of seeing what are called cases of cholera. Daily observation, past experience, and the fixed determination to promulgate what I conceive to be the truth, compel me, however, to acknowledge that, in my opinion, the fatality and progress of this disease have been much exaggerated, I will not say intentionally, by those who lay claim to a superior acquaintance with it, who are, indeed, regarded as the only efficient judges of its nature and treatment, and yet on these important subjects they know no more than the generally well-informed in the profession. If asked for corroboration of this bold assertion, I direct the candid enquirer to the diversity of the ideas entertained concerning the former—the manifest absurdity of some of them—and to the extraordinary discrepancies in their opinions respecting the latter. The world in general pay great deference to what is called experience—this is imagined to confer intelligence upon the understanding—to illuminate what is dark, to influence the direction and that which is bright but somewhat deviating from the exact course—to dissipate the prejudices of birth, education, and situation in life—in fine, to endow the mind with the power of separating truth from error in its multifarious investigations. Experience is no doubt highly estimable, but its value is regulated solely by the degree of natural intelligence possessed. Light to a man who can see gives certainty to his steps; but to one whose vision is so imperfect as to be only just sufficient to discern *it*, it is perplexing and is very apt to mislead; such an individual had better confide in his other senses or, what is preferable, in the judgment of others who are acknowledged to be excellent leading strings. This experience reminds me of an anecdote the spirit of which will illustrate the ideas I wish to convey. It is said that in a certain part of Ireland a post was placed in the middle of a river intimating that when seen it was safe to ford it, but when entirely covered it would be attended with considerable risk. Now, in matters requiring no deep train of thought,

no metaphysical refinements, but, on the contrary, only common observation to understand them, experience, like the post in shallow water, can scarcely mislead; but when the subjects presented to the mind are various in character, complex in their nature, displaying no obvious connexion with any part of our acquired knowledge—when they, in fact, call upon the mind to reason and investigate and, what is excessively hard, to doubt the correctness of ideas it has entertained and nourished with paternal kindness over half a century, this experience, like the post in deep water, gives no directions; or, if it does, they are about as useful as those immersed in water. It is to be regretted that this important personage, experience, does not exhibit its pretensions unadorned, for then it would be adorned the most—with truth. It frequently offers itself to our notice embodied in a somewhat aged form, a little bent forward, but shows at every step a disposition to be as young as ever; the countenance is delightfully sleek, slightly ruddy, but not in any degree disfigured by one line of thought—somewhat corpulent in appearance, the hair tastefully arranged and perhaps powdered—an umbrella is carried beneath the arm. When it speaks, it is difficult to get a word in; occasionally, however, it is exceedingly taciturn, its words flowing slowly, dictatorially, but at long intervals accompanied by a few significant nods, which seem to say “the height and depth of my knowledge it is not in the power of man to divine.” In the inexact sciences, and particularly in medicine, this all-sufficient personage intrudes; it is here that its influence is not only beneficial, but injuriously felt to a melancholy extent. When an individual can prove by his actions—no other evidence ought to be received—that years and experience have really made him wiser than the rest of mankind, we are bound by every principle, moral as well as intellectual, to be regulated by his judgment—to lay aside for the time being our own notions unless equally well established; but in the absence of such testimony we are fully entitled to call in question the superiority to which he lays claim; and still further we are called upon to explore his imperfections and errors as they exercise an injurious influence.

“These remarks are made in consequence of the undue importance which is attached to the opinions of men in consequence of considerations which ought to be treated with indifference, or at least with much less respect. It is decidedly my conviction and that of many residing here, as well as of many, if not the greater part, of the intelligent of the medical profession who have visited Sunderland for the purpose of investigation, that numerous affections are continually regarded as cases of cholera which have very little, if any, similitude to it; and,

moreover, that a strong disposition is manifested by many to establish the existence of this disease by a few insignificant or extremely equivocal symptoms during life; or, if these are found insufficient, by traces of disorganization of the most questionable character. You may perhaps say that it is of no consequence what the prevailing disease is designated, as another term would not make it less destructive. It is, however, important, not at this moment in particular but at all times, that things should be called by their proper names; to the neglect of this, the decidedly false impressions which the public have received concerning the progress and character of cholera are to be attributed; and it has moreover exercised a baneful influence on the selection and application of remedies.

"If every disease had been properly classified, cholera would have lost a great part of its appalling proportions. This disease varies in many essential points from that which has been described as occurring in the East and in Russia during the present year. The differences have not been adverted to, nor shall I, in this hasty communication, enter upon the subject—the consideration of which I shall leave to a more fitting or convenient occasion. A proper understanding of them will explain why remedies which have been regarded as specifics by practitioners abroad have been found here of little avail. From accounts which have been transmitted to this country the veracity of which is justly undoubted, we are assured by one that bleeding alone is a certain cure of the disease—another boasts of the wonderful effects of opium and calomel; they are, indeed, spoken of as acting like charms. A third gives internal stimulants, and almost immediately dissipates the affection; a fourth finds the warm bath an infallible remedy. These means have not here been productive of effects sufficiently striking to entitle them to the term efficient, much less that of specific. To what cause are these discrepancies of opinion to be traced—these dissimilar results? The cause, I have no doubt, will be found in certain well-marked diversities in the nature of the disease occasioned by previous modifications in the system which have hitherto been altogether unnoticed or not alluded to by those who have witnessed the Asiatic form of the disease as well as the one prevailing here, or in certain differences in the exciting causes for these, I am sure, are various, and may act either individually or conjointly. The want of correct or more extensive knowledge on these points is the source of much evil. Experience, our venerable friend, comes from all quarters of the globe to instruct, except the proper one; but the wisdom with which he is pregnant even to overflowing is of no earthly use than to direct his

steps to Sunderland. The announcement of his arrival occasions a little stir ; but his importance, unfortunately, gradually declines as he becomes better known. He does not certainly improve on further acquaintance, which is the case with all sterling characters, with men of substantial worth. You must allow me a little latitude of expression ; I can do nothing if I am tightly laced. A fine, frosty morning and a prospect of seeing home soon are quite enough to exhilarate the mind and to give the spirits a bounding propensity which carries one with a joyous spring over the precise and formal boundaries laid down by the understanding in its thoughtful and sober mood.

“Cholera is to all appearance declining here ; but this is not to be attributed to the exertions of the public authorities ; they, although the disease has been over two months at their own door, have stirred themselves much less than you in Sheffield ; whether it is that they are so accustomed to the sight and filth that they do not perceive the disgusting degree in which they exist, or whether their indifference arises from any other cause, it is difficult to say. When cholera had assumed a somewhat formidable character, subscriptions were set on foot in order to purchase blankets for distribution among the poor, and the fire engines played once in the poisonous lanes and alleys ; but the authorities then ceased all further vigorous exertions. They have, in fact, conducted themselves with so little public spirit that the cholera hospital so indispensably necessary at this moment is scarcely at all supported.

“I am informed by the physician appointed to it that it is somewhat doubtful if it can be kept open another week. To obviate, however, such an unfortunate occurrence at this important crisis as the closing of its doors on the miserable wretches who may require its assistance, subscriptions have been entered into by the medical visitors congregated here from different parts of the Continent and the principal towns of the United Kingdom. Can you conceive it possible for so much apathy to exist as to compel us to pay for our curiosity and zeal ? Cholera, you may depend upon it, is not prevented or cured by additional blankets. The more clothing the poor here possess, the filthier they become. If they could make half-savages of them in regard to simplicity of dress and paucity of comforts according to the ideas of civilised life, they would be much less liable to be swept away by pestilence. The hovels in which they reside are not deficient in warmth, for coal is cheap ; the ingress of fresh air is carefully prevented and three or four generally sleep together. I am at this moment requested to see my next-door neighbour, who was last night suddenly seized with vomiting and shivering, which generally usher in an attack of cholera, and I was

called to him at two o'clock this morning. He had the day preceding attended the funeral of a friend, and has within the last week lost two relatives of this disease. The symptoms in him appeared to me to be occasioned by great mental perturbation. I do, however, most freely confess that the influence of the mind is not here productive of any marked effects. I know of several cases in which depression of spirits has been the chief, if not the only, cause of death; but amongst the poor here, generally speaking, it is scarcely worthy of being introduced as a pre-disposing or exciting agent. For striking illustrations of the influence of the mind, we must look to the higher orders of society, whose susceptibilities are numerous and acute and whose souls readily vibrate to causes which awaken its fine and mysterious sympathies. Many in the inferior classes of society furnish excellent illustrations, but it is when their feelings have been refined and elevated by education and religion. There are some facts connected with this disease of great importance to the public, as a knowledge of them, in my opinion, points out a better preventive than any I am acquainted with. In almost all cases of cholera, the severe as well as the mild, the disease is preceded three, four, or five days, sometimes a much longer period, by a decided disordered condition of the bowels, they being more frequently moved than usual, accompanied with slight griping—the latter symptom is sometimes absent. I have been very particular in my investigations respecting this point, and I state it not only on the authority of my own individual enquiries, but on that of the best informed in the profession here.

“I have scarcely met with a well-marked case of the disease that has not been preceded by this symptom, and, still further, the severity of the affection appears to be proportionate to the degree and duration of the preceding derangement. It is therefore of vital importance that a disordered condition of the bowels should at this season of the year be corrected and such condition most carefully guarded against. The disease here at Newcastle has, in my humble opinion, a spontaneous origin. It springs luxuriantly in the filthiest places you can possibly conceive; or, if it be contended that it is imported, the force of my observation is little affected, because the disease is restricted almost entirely to the most filthy situations.

“I do not think the town of Sheffield has any just reason whatever to be alarmed; but if you would allow me the privilege of a suggestion, I should propose dividing the town into a hundred districts and appointing to each, two or more gentlemen whose business it should be to see that every house in an unhealthy condition from defective cleanliness is

whitewashed and immediate nuisance removed. Let me entreat you to exert your influence in carrying into effect more effectually than you have done, a measure fraught with inestimable blessings to its inhabitants.

"Yours, etc.,

"G. C. Holland, M.D.

"To T. A. Ward, Esq."

CHOLERA MORBUS AT NEWCASTLE.

We are sorry to have to announce that the medical men of this town have decided that we have the Spasmodic Cholera amongst us. There are some, however, sceptical enough to believe that it has not yet appeared. We have no wish obstinately to persist against all reason that there is no such disease amongst us, but we are satisfied that the cholera affair altogether has been and is fearfully exaggerated. From the letter of Dr. Gibson, a few weeks ago, in which he spoke of the wide net it was necessary to spread to catch all cases, it might be calculated that many would be set down as cholera which were not so; we believe that the means of aggravating the consummate total alluded to by the *Scotsman*—the putting into the lists of cholera patients persons who were afflicted with other diseases and indispositions—must have operated to a considerable extent. We alluded in our last to Dr. Armstrong's congestive fever, which bore so many of the symptoms of the alleged spasmodic cholera; we made the allusion in order to remove some of the impression of alarm which the terrible accounts of the novelty and the ferocity of the cholera had made. That impression, however, we are confident would be almost entirely removed if our physicians and surgeons would publish none but the cases which are decided and unequivocal cholera. The disease is sufficiently marked. It may be known from every other. It cannot be confounded with common cholera, diarrhœa, or with typhus;—then why is it so confounded? This may, indeed, be thought a proof that the disease is not so marked on the Continent, for who so much as confounded cholera with any other complaint at Riga or Petersburg? Why act upon the principle that "all are fish that come to the net," as has been evidently done according to Dr. Gibson's letter? Why were diarrhœa cases confessedly put into the lists? Instead of reporting those and common cases, or doubtful cases, we say the very opposite course should have been pursued. All distinct, well-marked cases should have been reckoned, and if any doubtful cases had been enumerated at all, under the head of *doubtful* only should have been published.

With the mixture of diarrhœa and doubtful cases it is impossible to judge the actual mortality of the disease. Diarrhœa will make it seem less mortal than the reality, while apoplexy and other sudden deaths set down as cholera may add not a little to its apparent destructiveness. We repeat that there is much unnecessary fear respecting the cholera; and, to give some confirmation of our assertion, we will put two or three questions which, if fairly answered from Sunderland, would place the complaint in a somewhat different light:—

1. How many cases of illness and death from other causes are reported amongst cases of spasmodic cholera?

2. How many cases of real cholera which occur at Sunderland have been found amongst the wretched and starving, the drunken and those of worn-out constitutions?

3. How many diseased persons of bad habits, ill-fed, ill-clothed, and of worn-out constitutions—persons who have been living in disease and filth for years—have been put into the lists as having the cholera, who have not had it at all?

4. How many cases of real cholera have occurred amongst the healthy, well-fed, active population of Sunderland?

We do not pride ourselves on possessing what Sir John Sinclair is said to have considered the best qualification for discussing a medical subject, viz., our not belonging to the profession; but we are medical enough to be morally certain that, if all the cholera were thus sifted out of all the non-cholera, it would turn out a very insignificant proportion. As in all cases of general excitement, medical men seem to ally themselves to parties. Some are overwhelmed with cholera. They think, speak, dream of nothing but cholera. Cholera is to them what ale was to Boniface. There are others, again, who will not hear of cholera at all; who say that there is no cholera! If some calm, impartial, unbiassed physician would examine the progress of the complaint with the grave consideration and disinterested coolness of an historian and publish his own observations daily or weekly, it would be much to the public advantage. We must add that the exaggerations in the London papers are in the highest degree scandalous and reprehensible. To enumerate them would be impossible as well as unprofitable. Even in Saturday's *Courier* a writer speaks of the cholera to this effect:—"It is a type of the great pestilence or what is commonly called the *black plague* which so frightfully prevailed in this country in the time of Edward III." Now, this is childish and contemptible—the very worst of the *blue* cholera in India, in Russia, and even in Smyrna, were

nothing to this black plague, which any person may see by referring to Barnes's History of Edward III, was decidedly a variety of plague actually worse than the disease emphatically termed *the plague* at the present day.

—*Tyne Mercury*.

The following official communications respecting the cholera and the regulations for its prevention and cure recommended for general adoption by Drs. Russell and Barry have been published :—

Central Board of Health Council Office, Whitehall,
13th Dec., 1831.

Sir,—Agreeable to the intimation by this Board in the concluding paragraph of their Circular dated the 14 ult., I have the honour to transmit the subjoined "Sanitary Instructions for Communities supposed to be actually attacked by Spasmodic Cholera," with some observations on the nature and treatment of the disease drawn up by Drs. Russell and Barry.

Every individual being deeply interested in the preservation of the public health, it is the bounden duty of all to endeavour to arrest the spread of the disease at its very commencement. In order to attain this important object :—

1st. The most efficient arrangements should be made by the local Boards of Health and other authorities to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of every suspected case which may occur in their jurisdiction.

2nd. All unnecessary communication should be prevented as far as possible between the infected and the healthy.

3rd. As space, cleanliness, and pure air are of the most vital consequence both to the recovery of the sick person and to the safety of those about him, the patient labouring under spasmodic cholera should either be placed in a separate well-ventilated apartment in his own house, if it affords such accommodation, and be attended by as few persons as the circumstances of his case would admit, or be induced to an immediate removal to such building as may have been provided for the reception of such persons whose circumstances will not afford the advantages at home of space, air, and separation from the healthy.

4th. When an individual shall have been attacked with this disease and placed under the most favourable conditions, as already pointed out, both for the recovery of his own and the safety of the public health, the room or apartment where he may have been attacked and from which

he may have been removed should be purified by scrubbing, limewashing, free ventilation, and fumigation by heated sulphuric acid and common salt with black oxyde of manganese; or the same acid with nitre; or, when these materials cannot be obtained, by strong vinegar thrown upon heated bricks. The bed, bedding, and clothes should be immersed in water, washed with soap, and afterwards fumigated as above.

5th. To correct all offensive smells, chloride of lime may be applied: but great caution is recommended in the use of this material, its fumes continued for any length of time having been found prejudicial to health, more particularly in delicate persons.

6th. A number of steady men proportionate to the district in which they are to act should be appointed to limewash and purify as ordered above, under the direction of medical authority, such apartments as may be pointed out by the inspectors of the local board.

7th. Those who die of this disease should be buried as soon as possible, wrapped in cotton or linen cloth saturated with pitch or coal tar, and so carried to the grave by the fewest possible number of persons. The funeral service to be performed in the open air.

8th. It is of the utmost importance to the public health that an improved type of flannel clothing, at least flannel belts and woollen stockings, should be given to the poor. No person should ever allow himself to sit down, and get cool, with wet feet. The most particular attention should be paid to keeping the feet dry and warm. Repletion and indigestion should be guarded against; all raw vegetables, acescent, unwholesome food and drink to be avoided; temperance should be most rigidly observed in everything. In short, no means should be neglected which may tend to preserve individual health. The neglect of any or all of these cautions would not of themselves produce a specific disease called spasmodic cholera; but such neglect would most assuredly dispose the individual living in an infected atmosphere to be attacked by this disease when most probably he might otherwise have escaped.

The most effectual means by which this disease may be prevented from extending is to enable the poor, who are generally the first attacked, to oppose to its influence as far as practicable those ameliorations in diet, clothing, and lodging which public and private charity will, it is hoped, not fail to produce.

.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF THE DISEASE
DRAWN UP BY DRs. RUSSELL AND BARRY.

Of the two great classes of functions performed by the organs of which man is composed, one only is attacked by this disease. The operations of the senses and of the intelligence are either left untouched or are affected but in a secondary manner.

Those functions, on the contrary, by which existence as a living being is preserved; those complicated powers by means of which we are for ever appropriating and converting into a part of ourselves portions of the matter around us, are all and at once deranged by the attack of this terrible malady. Nutrition is annihilated; respiration becomes difficult, irregular, and inefficient; the involuntary muscles no longer perform their task; the voluntary are drawn into contractions by other powers than the will; the blood ceases to circulate; its physical properties are altered; its serous portion is suddenly thrown out upon the intestinal mucus service of the body; the secretions are all arrested, the animal heat is no longer produced.

Under such rapidly destructive and almost universal derangement of function the most energetic efforts should be directed to produce what the disease has rendered nature unable to keep up, viz :—

1. Fluidity, heat, and motion in the blood.
2. Regulated action in the voluntary and involuntary muscles.

Lastly to above, over either consideration, renewed energy in the nervous centre, the source of all vitality and function.

No remedy at all approaching to the nature of a specific has been as yet discovered for the disease. In fact, no one mode of curing can be usefully employed under all the circumstances of the disease. The grades of intensity and the grouping of the symptoms with which spasmodic cholera makes its attacks vary with the conditions of the subject; its treatment, however, must vary with these grades and conditions.

The leading preliminary symptoms generally are either diarrhœa spasms, apoplectic vertigo, with nausea, imperfect vomiting, or various combinations of these symptoms.

When the diarrhœa affords time for distinct treatment, it ought to be arrested at once by the most prompt and efficient measures—by opium in moderate doses; astringents; local bleeding by leeches, if the subject be plethoric; by cordials and sulphate of quinine if there be cold sweats; by confining the patient strictly to bed and keeping up the heat; by diet; and by emetics.

Should spasms be the first and leading symptoms, sub-nitrate of bismuth, cupping along the course of the spine, cordial and anti-spasmodic medicines, opium, friction, and dry warmth are indicated.

But when the patient is suddenly seized with vertigo, nausea, coldness, loss of pulse, blueness of the skin, shrinking of the features and extremities, with more or less watery discharges and cramps, constituting an aggravated case of the worst type, whether this state shall have come on without warning or shall supervene upon either or both of the preliminary sets of symptoms already mentioned, time must not be wasted upon inert measures. Such a patient will inevitably perish and within a very few hours, if the paralyzed vital functions be not quickly restored.

Let him then be immediately placed between warm blankets; and should no medical person be at hand, let two tablespoons full of salt dissolved in six ounces of warm water be given immediately and at once if he be an adult. Let dry and steady heat be applied along the course of the spine and to the pit of the stomach (if no other means be at hand) by a succession of heated plates and platters; let the upper and lower extremities be surrounded with bags and heated bran, corn, ashes, or sand, assiduously rubbed with a warm hand and a little oil or grease to protect the skin. Energetic complete vomiting will probably be produced by the salt, and perhaps bilious purging with tenesmus.

Should a medical man be on the spot, a moderate bleeding, if it can be obtained, previously to or immediately after the administration of the salt or of any other emetic which may be preferred.

The extensively deranged action of those organs whose nerves are chiefly derived from or connected with the spinal marrow, the anatomical characters found about that great source of vitality after death in many cases of this disease, together with the success stated by Dr. Lange, chief physician at Cronstadt, to have attended the practice mentioned below founded upon those views, in twelve out of fourteen aggravated cases fully justified the following recommendation:—

“In cases such as those just described, let the cautery be freely applied to one or two or more places on either side of the spine as if for the purpose of forming good-sized issues. Should the heated iron have produced any excitement of the nervous powers and the salt emetic have caused any portion of the bile to flow through its proper duct, a great step will have been accomplished towards recovery from the stage of collapse. Cordials and opiates judiciously administered, sinapisms

and other external stimulants, mercurials with mild aromatic aperients, which the intelligence and activity of British medical practitioners will not fail to adapt to the actual circumstances of each case, will conduct the patient to the stage of re-action."

The organs during the collapse of this disease, probably owing to deficient vitality, often give no indication of having been acted upon by repeated doses of certain powerful medicines, which under other circumstances would have produced the most pronounced effects. It is therefore suggested that this temporary insensibility of the system could not inculcate the administration of such repeated quantities as could by accumulation, when the organs begin to recover their vitality, give rise to unfavourable results.

Thirst, being a most distressing symptom of this disease, the quality of the drink should perhaps be left to the choice of the patient, but the quantity taken at a time should not exceed four ounces, and should be acidulated with nitrous acid, if the patient will bear it.

Should the disease prove extensively and rapidly epidemic in a large community, it would be prudent to establish stations at convenient distances from each other, where medical assistance and medicines might be procured without the risk of disappointment and delay. The details of this arrangement are left to the wisdom of local Boards of Health.

As the symptoms of the consecutive stage after feverish re-action in cholera differ but little if at all from those of ordinary typhus, except perhaps in the rapidity with which they but too often reached to a fatal termination, and as this kind of fever is treated in no part of the world with more success than in England, the entire management of this stage of the disease is left to the zeal and science of the profession at large.

Attentive nursing and assiduous, well-directed rubbing are of the utmost importance, a strictly horizontal position must be maintained until the heart shall have partly, at least, recovered its action. An erect or even semi-erect position during the collapse has been often observed to produce instant death; warm baths, therefore, for this and other reasons, are worse than useless; vapouring fluids and, indeed, all moisture applied to the skin seem to be contradicted for obvious reasons. Hot-air baths, so contrived as to be applicable in a recumbent posture and admitting access to the patient for the purpose of friction, may be of use.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

J. Stewart, Chairman.

Feb. 18, 1832.

Reports from Council Office, Whitehall—each week.

June 16, 1832.

CHOLERA IN SHEFFIELD.—Some reports have been prevalent during the last two days that cases of Asiatic cholera have appeared in this town. The only fact in connection with the existence of the epidemic which has reached our knowledge is the death of a person named Foster, who was interred at St. George's Church, at ten o'clock on Thursday night. The victim was a tailor, who had recently visited the town from the neighbourhood of Thorne, and was supposed to be of intemperate habits. On this case it is understood that the medical men have expressed various and most contradictory opinions.

June 30, 1832.

THE CHOLERA.—The alarm which lately existed in this neighbourhood on the report of the approach of the Cholera has nearly altogether subsided.

July 14, 1832.

THE CHOLERA. — We are sorry to announce reports of the progress of the disease called *Cholera*, in several cases in the neighbouring towns. Two deaths have taken place within the last three days in the neighbourhood of Derby. In Nottingham three male adults have died after an illness of only a few hours. In our own town (Sheffield) much alarm has been created during the week. We have received no official accounts from the Board of Health established here (and we have been solicited not to give publicity to any accounts of the progress of the disease without a certificate from the medical practitioners), but it appears that during the week three or four deaths have occurred under the circumstances that distinguish the spasmodic or Asiatic cholera. It will be gratifying to the public to learn that most extensive, and it is trusted efficient, precautions have been taken to afford, in an hospital attached to the poorhouse, all the assistance which humanity and the best professional knowledge can afford, to the poorer classes of society who may unfortunately be attacked.

July 21, 1832.

CHOLERA.—The following is the latest Report issued by the Board of Health established in this town:—

July 20. Six o'clock, p.m.

Remaining 10, New Cases 1, Dead 0.

Recovered 7, Remaining 7.

Total number of cases since the appearance of the Cholera in Sheffield (8th inst.) 25 cases, deaths 10. From the above official report, the public will be glad to learn that the disease termed cholera has made little progress in this town. We have instituted inquiry into the habits and condition in life of the unfortunate persons who have fallen victims, and the result gives tolerably certain assurance that the temperate and orderly portion of society has little to fear from the popular scourge, whether it be epidemic or contagious. The poorer members of the community, who may probably be most liable to attack, may be assured that the most humane and efficient arrangements have been made for their careful treatment in the House of Recovery, which has been established by the overseers. In proof of this assertion, it may be stated that, with one or two exceptions, all the patients now remaining under medical care will be discharged in a few days, in tolerable health.

Aug. 11, 1832.

INTERMENT OF CHOLERA PATIENTS.—The following are the Clergymen who will attend at the Cemetery, near the Clay Wood, at ten o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the evening, except Sunday, when they will attend at *nine* in the forenoon and *six* in the evening:—

Monday	Morning	Rev. Mr Best(?)
„	Evening	T. Sutton
Tuesday	Morning	Goodwin, The Bank.
„	Evening	Livesey, Upperthorpe.
Wednesday	Morning	Langston, Broad Lane.
„	Evening	Vale, Ecclesall.
Thursday	Morning	Gibson, Wilkinson Street.
„	Evening	Greaves, Attercliffe.
Friday	Morning	Farish, Highfield.
„	Evening	Blackburn, Attercliffe.
Saturday	Morning	Harris, Norfolk Street.
„	Evening	Holt, St. George's Terrace. (Halt)

The Sheffield Iris.

June 21, 1831.

"The Committee of the Royal College of Physicians, which met on Wednesday, have reported 'that the cholera may be communicated by infected persons to those in health; but no information which had reached the Committee justifies the suspicion that it is communicated by merchandise. As a measure of safety, however, the Committee approve of the establishment of quarantine.'" This opinion has been transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Aug. 2, 1831.

Official recommendations and precautions to be observed.

Oct. 24, 1831.

Regulations suggested by the Board of Health.

Nov. 15, 1831.

Leaderette and notice of the Town Trustees' Meeting.

Nov. 22, 1831.

Indignant leader on the publication in the *Liverpool Chronicle* of a letter from Sheffield stating that two fatal cases had occurred in Sheffield: "It is kept as still as possible."

Nov. 29, 1831.

Leaderette: "We could hardly wonder at the inhabitants of Sunderland being reluctant in the first instance to admit the reality of this dreadful disorder amongst them, but now that its existence is undeniable and increasing, other parts of the kingdom will hardly regard as less than criminal, attempts to cloak or conceal the extent of its ravages."

Two letters from indignant ratepayers re cleansing, &c., of the town.

Dec. 6, 1831.

Letter, signed "Homo," objecting to Dr. Holland's journey to Sunderland "thus unnecessarily encountering the danger of bringing back direct among us the very disease we are all so anxious to avoid," . . . and hinting that the expenses of this "medical mission" were being defrayed out of the funds of the Board of Health.

Dec. 27, 1831.

CHOLERA RESTRICTIONS.—There is something most absurdly inconsistent in the quarantine regulations which have been adopted with regard to Sunderland. While the cholera is permitted to travel in all directions, like a gentleman, either in or outside the coaches, he is not allowed to degrade himself by voyaging in coal vessels, or by soiling his delicate fingers in contact with the "dirty fives" of a Thames coal heaver. He is welcomed to the Metropolis in a chaise and pair, coach, gig, or even a stage waggon, by any of the great northern roads—but, under sundry pains and penalties, he must not come in a coal barge up the Thames.

Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1832.

We understand that Dr. G. C. Holland and Dr. C. F. Favell are appointed physicians to the hospital intended for the reception of cholera patients, in the event of that disease breaking out in this place.

We have great pleasure in stating that the Town Trustees, at a meeting held yesterday, voted two hundred pounds as a subscription to the funds of the Cholera Committee in Sheffield.

(Official reports published weekly.)

Feb. 21, 1832.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS: The Cholera Prevention Bill (England) was passed through all its remaining stages. Bishop of London protested against National Schools being used for Cholera Hospitals, and suggested the use of halls of companies, etc.

July 31, 1832.

Summary of Order in Council as published in *Gazette*.

Letter from S. R., dated July 28, 1832: "The surveyors, it appears, do not act harmoniously together. It is true, that they all pull at the same time, but in different directions, each, it seems, striving to get as much done near his own residence as he can."

Aug. 7, 1832.

The Police Commission appointed a committee to correspond with the Board of Health and act under their suggestion in the removal of

all nuisances which might be supposed capable of injuring the public health. (See post.)

Editorial: The following paragraph has appeared in the *Leeds Mercury* of Saturday:—

“Sheffield:—The disease, which was very mild here at first, has, we are sorry to say, become very alarming and extensive in its ravages. There is, we understand, nothing strange in this, for Sheffield is a town in which there is generally great intemperance; the first two days of the week being by very many of the workmen spent in idleness and dissipation. We trust this vice will receive a check by the awful disease now prevailing there.”

This statement is so cautiously worded that it would be difficult absolutely to deny the truth of any part of it, but an inference which will (pretty commonly) be drawn from it, we cannot hesitate to say, is false,—namely that the drunkards of Sheffield are sinners above all others dwelling in large manufacturing towns. “Sheffield . . . dissipation.” Is it otherwise in Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, etc.? Let the facts on which comparison might be founded be known, and we shall not fear the result for Sheffield. The mass of population of no place with which we are acquainted, can be honestly placed above our townspeople, either in morals, intelligence, or good behaviour. It is, indeed, true, that among the victims of cholera within the last four weeks, in this neighbourhood, there has been a proportion of the intemperate; but if this be adopted as the standard of proportion between the profligate and the sober among our artisans, Sheffield may take its station as high as we dare think of setting it among contemporary localities, for the number of *such* has not been more than *one* in *ten*, among the lowest ranks of society; the rest being (with very few exceptions) people reduced to the extremity of wretchedness by want or sickness, including many women, children, and aged persons. We trust, however, that the perilous liability of drunkards and debauchees to take the disease, will cause a seasonable, a salutary, and a permanent check to their excesses.

Sept. 25, 1832.

Board of Health advertisement, dated Sept. 20. Closing Park Dispensary but advising precautions.

The Sheffield Courant.

July 1, 1831.

In a leading article showing the impossibility of Cholera coming to England, said: "It is much to be regretted that the subject was noticed in the speech from the throne; but if this be an error, it is in part redeemed by the precautions which the government are taking, which, if they do nothing more, ought at least to allay some of the public apprehension."

Oct. 28, 1831.

From the *London Gazette*, 20 Oct., 1831: The Police Commissioners advocated the establishment of local Boards of Health, that towns should have District Committees and cases to be isolated. Articles, etc., should be burnt. Report of the Board of Health, College of Physicians, of Sir Henry Hallford.

Nov. 4, 1831.

Monthly meeting of the Police Commissioners. T. A. Ward read a memorial on the Cholera Morbus from Dr. Corden Thompson to the Town Trustees. A Committee—Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Clay Bacon, and Mr. Boulbee—was appointed to co-operate with the Town Trustees and Burgesses of Sheffield.

Nov. 11, 1831.

Town Trustees' Meeting. Appointment of provisional committee and medical gentlemen requested to form a Medical Board.

J. W. Bagshawe proposed, Mr. Ellison seconded,

WORKHOUSE AS CHOLERA HOSPITAL.

"No town could have such an advantage as Sheffield in employing their workhouse for such a purpose, from its airiness and cleanliness, and also from its being walled round."

Dec. 9, 1831.

Dr. Holland of this place departed for Sunderland on Wednesday, with a view to observe the character of the pestilence existing there.

Dec. 16, 1831.

The Overseers of the Poor of Sheffield respectfully call upon the inhabitants to cleanse their houses, yards, and premises, etc.

Dec. 30, 1831.

Note re appointment of Holland and Favell as physicians.

June 1, 1832.

SHEFFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH.—At a late meeting of the Medical Board in this town, Dr. Favell read a clever paper on Cholera,* in which he introduced the result of his observations during a recent visit to Dublin, in company with Mr. Turton, surgeon.

It appeared from Dr. Favell's remarks, that there existed nearly 300 cases of this malady at the time of their visit to that city. He described their reception as very courteous wherever they had occasion to call in pursuit of their enquiries. As to the disease, his opinion is that there is little danger, if medical aid be early obtained; but that in the more advanced stages there is seldom any hope of effecting a cure. He thinks it only contagious when the habits of life and constitution of any individual are favourable to the disease. The predisposing causes are filth, dramdrinking, bad clothing, poor diet, exposure to cold, and strong mental impressions resulting from a dread of the complaint. Great difference of opinion prevails among the faculty in Dublin as to the best mode of treatment. Some adopt strong stimulants; others a directly opposite course. The prejudices against hospitals and doctors, which lately prevailed among the poor, are now rapidly subsiding.

July 13, 1832.

It is no longer doubtful that Spasmodic Cholera has made its appearance at Sheffield, though its progress has not been attended with the malignity which has characterized it in some other towns. The first case occurred in Button Lane, near the top of Sheffield Moor. Up to yesterday morning, the number of cases had been 8, and 4 deaths; and during the day there was one case admitted into the hospital. Of the 5 now remaining, 4 are females, who, together with the other case, are in a fair way to recovery.

July 27, 1832.

Since our last, the disease has diffused itself over a wider circle. Cases have occurred in the Park, and on Sheffield Moor, at the bottom of Arundel Street, and in the Nursery, in Pond Street, and on Pond Hill, in Spring Street, Water Lane, at the bottom of Furnival Street, Cotton Mill Row, etc.

*There is a copy of this paper in the Library of the Sheffield Medico-Chirurgical Society: "A Treatise on the Nature, Causes, and Treatment, of Spasmodic Cholera," by Charles F. Favell, M.D.; 1832; printed by G. Ridge, King Street, Sheffield. The paper was read at a meeting of the Sheffield Medical Institution before Dr. Favell went to Dublin. The result of the experience Dr. Favell and Mr. Turton had in Dublin is embodied in an Appendix, pp. 77 to 80.

Aug. 17, 1832.

The Park Dispensary has, we have reason to believe, been of the utmost benefit. The disease had been peculiarly virulent and fatal in that district, and as no medical man actually resided within it, individuals who became the subjects of this complaint were frequently lost in consequence of the impossibility of obtaining timely assistance. . . . Dr. Harwood and Mr. Law are the medical gentlemen attached to the Park Dispensary, and their services can be obtained at any period.

Oct. 5, 1832.

We are sorry to learn from the statements of the Clergy, that the drunkard lately seen in our places of worship from fear of the cholera, again reels in our streets, now the disease is abated.

In the *Courant* of Nov. 9 there is a very humorous reply from Henry Wilkinson, of Rotherham, with this editorial note at the foot: "We must decline inserting any more communications on this subject, except as advertisements."

Jan. 11, 1833.

The *Courant* publishes the Bill of Mortality for the Parish of Sheffield for 1832, showing an increase of 513 deaths beyond the previous year—this being largely due to the incidence of the Cholera epidemic.

June 14, 1833.

Note on the accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, Messrs. H. Doncaster, Geo. Rodgers, C. F. Younge, and A. Ingleson, for the year ending March 25th, 1833: The increased payments to the regular and casual poor amounted to nearly £1,900; in the House, there has been an increase of about 60 inmates, and corresponding expenditure of near £500. The payments on account of the Board of Health amounted to near £2,000. The report concludes—"As it is hoped the late fatal visitation will not again make its appearance, the expenditure of the overseers will, in a short time, in all probability, be considerably reduced."

Aug. 2, 1833.

Abstract of Accounts of Board of Health published.

APPENDIX I.

ANNO SECUNDO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

CAP. X.

An Act for the Prevention, as far as may be possible, of the Disease called the Cholera, or Spasmodic or *Indian* Cholera, in *England*. [20th February 1832.]

WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God to visit the United Kingdom with the Disease called the Cholera, or Spasmodic or *Indian* Cholera: And whereas, with a view to prevent, as far as may be possible, by the Divine Blessing, the spreading of the said Disease, it may be necessary that Rules and Regulations should from Time to Time be established within Cities, Towns, or Districts affected with or which may be threatened by the said Disease; but it may be impossible to establish such Rules and Regulations by the Authority of Parliament with sufficient Promptitude to meet the Exigency of any such Case as it may occur: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lords and others of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, or any Two or more of them (of whom the Lord President of the Council or One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the Time being shall always be One), by any Order or Orders to be by them from Time to Time made, to establish, and again from Time to Time, by any such Order or Orders, to revoke, renew, alter, and vary all such Rules and Regulations, or to substitute any such new Rules and Regulations as to them may appear necessary or expedient for the Prevention, as far as may be possible, of the spreading of the said Disease called the Cholera, or Spasmodic or *Indian* Cholera, in *England* and *Wales* or any Part thereof, or for the Relief of any Persons suffering under or likely to be affected by the said Disease, and for the safe and speedy Interment of any Person or Persons who may die of the said Disease.

II. And be it further enacted, That every such Order as aforesaid shall be certified under the Hand of One of the Clerks in Ordinary of His Majesty's Privy Council; and that the Publication of any such Order in the *London Gazette* shall, for all Intents and Purposes, be taken, admitted, and received in all Courts, and by and before all Judges, Justices, Magistrates, and others, as good and sufficient Evidence of the making and of the Date and Contents of any such Order.

III. And be it further enacted, That any Person who shall or may violate or wilfully and knowingly infringe the Provisions of any such Order, or who shall or may refuse or wilfully neglect or omit to act in obedience to or in conformity with any such Order, or who shall resist, oppose, or obstruct the lawful Execution thereof, shall for every such Offence be and be deemed guilty of a Misdemeanour, and shall also incur and become liable to a Penalty not exceeding Five Pounds nor less than One Pound, to be recovered in the Manner herein-after mentioned: Provided always, that no Person against whom any such Penalty shall be so recovered, or shall have suffered the Imprisonment awarded for Nonpayment thereof, shall be liable to be indicted or proceeded against in respect of the same Offence as for a Misdemeanour.

IV. And be it further enacted, That all such Penalties as aforesaid shall be recovered by any Person or Persons who shall sue for the same before any Two Justices of the Peace having Jurisdiction within the County, Riding, City, or Place in which the Offence shall have been committed; and that the Amount of Penalties to be inflicted upon any such Offenders shall, within the Limits hereinafter prescribed, be in the Discretion of such Justice.

V. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace, in all Cases where any Information shall be laid before them, on Oath, of any such Offence as aforesaid, and they are hereby required, to issue their Summons to any Person or Persons whom they may have reason to suppose capable of giving any material Evidence on the hearing of such Information, requiring every such Person or Persons to appear and to give Evidence at a Time and Place to be specified in such Summons; and if any Person so summoned shall not appear before such Justices at the Time and Place so specified in the said Summons, or shall not offer any reasonable Excuse for such Default, to the Satisfaction of the said Justices, or appearing shall not submit to be examined as a Witness, then and in every such Case it shall be lawful for the said Justices, and they are hereby authorized, (Proof on Oath in the Case of any Person not appearing to such Summons having been

first made before such Justices of the due Service of such Summons on such Person by delivering the same to him or her, or by leaving the same at his or her usual Place or Abode,) by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of such Justices to commit any such Person so making Default as aforesaid to some Gaol, House of Correction, or Bridewell within the Jurisdiction of the said Justices, there to remain without Bail or Main-prize for any Time not exceeding Fourteen Days, or until such Person shall submit to be examined and give Evidence.

VI. And be it further enacted, That all Justices of the Peace shall and are hereby empowered on the Conviction of any Person before them for any such Offence as aforesaid, in default of Payment of any such Penalty as aforesaid, to cause the same to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Offender, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of such Justices, together with the reasonable Costs of such Distress and Sale; and in case it shall appear to the Satisfaction of such Justices, either by the Confession of the Offender, or by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, that such Offender hath not Goods and Chattels within the Jurisdiction of such Justices, sufficient whereon to levy any such Costs and Charges, such Justices may, without issuing any Warrant of Distress, commit such Offender to any such Gaol, House of Correction, or Bridewell as aforesaid, for any Time not exceeding Fourteen Days, unless such Penalty, Costs, and Charges be sooner paid, in such Manner as if a Warrant of Distress had been issued, and a Return of Nulla bona made thereon, in which Case also it shall be lawful for such Justices to commit any such Offender for such Term of Fourteen Days, or for any shorter Period, to any such Prison as aforesaid.

VII. And be it further enacted, That all such Penalties as aforesaid shall be applied in or towards the Relief of the Poor of the Parish or Place in which any Offence as aforesaid may have been committed.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Expences which may be reasonably or properly incurred in carrying into effect any Order or Orders of the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council so to be made as aforesaid shall, in the first instance, under and by virtue of an Order or Orders in Writing of One Justice of the Peace dwelling in or near the Parish or Division, and which said Order or Orders any such Justice is hereby empowered and directed to make from Time to Time as Occasion may require, commanding the Churchwardens, Overseers, or Guardians of the Poor for the Time being to pay a certain sufficient Sum of Money for such Purposes, to

be defrayed out of the Rates for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish, Township, or Extra-parochial Place maintaining its own Poor, in which the same shall be so incurred, and in other Extra-parochial Places out of the Poor's Rate of the Parish nearest adjoining.

IX. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Lord President for the Time being of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council to authorize and direct One Person in the Privy Council Office (whose Name shall be from Time to Time transmitted to the Secretaries of the General Post Office in *London* and *Dublin*) to send Letters and Packets by the General Post from *London* to Places within the United Kingdom free from the Duty of Postage, during such Time only as the several Clauses and Enactments herein contained shall continue and be in operation, and no longer; provided all such Letters and Packets shall relate solely and exclusively to the Execution of this Act, and of the Directions, Powers, and Authorities herein contained, and shall be in Covers with the Words "On His Majesty's Service, Council Office," printed on the same, and be signed or subscribed on the Outside thereof, under such Words, with the Name of the Person so to be authorized as aforesaid, in his own Handwriting, and provided all such Packets shall be sealed with the Seal of the said Office; and the Person so to be authorized is hereby strictly forbidden so to subscribe and seal any Letter or Packet whatever, except such only concerning which he shall receive the special Directions of his superior Officer, or which he shall himself know to relate solely and exclusively to the Execution of this Act, and the Directions, Powers, and Authorities herein contained; and if such authorized Person, or any other Person, shall send, or cause or permit to be sent, under any such Cover, any Letter, Paper, or Writing, or any Inclosure, other than what shall relate to the Execution of this Act, and the Directions, Powers, and Authorities contained, every Person so offending shall forfeit and pay the Sum of One hundred Pounds, and be dismissed from his Office.

X. And be it further enacted, That every Order which may be so made as aforesaid by the Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council, or by any Two or more of them, shall be forthwith laid before both Houses of Parliament, if Parliament shall be then sitting, and that such Orders as shall be so made when Parliament shall not be sitting shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within Fourteen Days next after the Commencement of the first Session which shall ensue upon the Date of any such Order.

XI. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue in force until the Thirty-first Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and from thence until the End of the then next Session of Parliament.

XII. And be it further enacted, That this Act may be altered, amended, or repealed by any Act or Acts to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES'S,

The 22nd day of February 1832.

PRESENT,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, did, on the eighth day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, deem it expedient that an Order in Council should be, and an Order accordingly was, issued, placing under quarantine all vessels coming from, or touched at, any port or place in Russia, or any port or place in the Baltic, or in the Cattegat Sea, or any port or place on the Elbe, and bound to any port or place in the United Kingdom, or to the Islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark, or Man (having clean bills of health), as well as all vessels, boats and persons having had communications with such vessels, should proceed to such of the undermentioned ports as might be the nearest and most convenient to their port of destination, thus:—Cromarty Bay, in the Murray Frith; to the anchorage in the Frith of Tay, near Dundee; in the Frith of Forth, between the North Queen's Ferry and Lord Elgin's Lime Kilns; White Booth Roads, between Hull and Grimsby; Standgate Creek; the Motherbank, at Portsmouth; Plymouth; Falmouth; Milford Haven; Brombro' Pool, in the River Mersey, near Liverpool; Holy Loch, in the Frith of Clyde; and all vessels arriving with foul bills of health, or coming (without bills of health) from any port or place where the cholera was known to prevail, should proceed

either to Cromarty Bay, in the Murray Frith; to Standgate Creek; or to Milford Haven, and should there perform quarantine, and be subject with their crews, pilots and all persons having communications with such vessels, to all the rules and regulations established by His late Majesty's Order in Council, of the nineteenth of July one thousand eight hundred and twenty five:

And whereas His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, hath determined to revoke and annul the said Order in Council, of the eighth of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty one; His Majesty doth, therefore, by and with such advice, hereby revoke and annul the aforementioned Order, of the eighth of June last, and the same is hereby revoked and annulled to all intents and purposes whatever:

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, and the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

C. C. GREVILLE.

AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WHITEHALL,

The 29th day of February 1832.

BY THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE
PRIVY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the second year of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the prevention, as far as may be possible, of the disease called the cholera, or spasmodic or Indian cholera, in Scotland," it is, amongst other things, enacted, "that it shall and may be lawful for the Lords and others of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, or any two or more of them (of whom the Lord President of the Council, or one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the time being, shall always be one), by any Order or Orders to be by them from time to time made, to establish, and again, from time to time, by any such Order or Orders, to revoke, renew, alter, and

vary all such rules and regulations, or to substitute any such new rules and regulations, as to them may appear necessary or expedient for the prevention, as far as may be possible, of the said disease called the cholera, or spasmodic, or Indian cholera, in Scotland, or any part thereof, or for the relief of any persons suffering under, or likely to be affected by, the said disease, with power also to the said Honourable Privy Council to appoint persons resident in Scotland to superintend and assist in the execution of this Act, and to vest such persons with such powers and authorities as to them may seem fit": And whereas the said disease hath extended to different parts of Scotland: And whereas it doth appear to the Lords and others of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one) necessary and expedient, in order to prevent the spread of the said disease in Scotland, and constituted by any Order or Orders of His Majesty's Privy Council, shall remain and continue in the execution of their respective duties as at present constituted: It is, therefore, ordered, by the Lords and others of His Majesty's Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one), in pursuance and exercise of the powers enabling them in that behalf, that all Boards of Health heretofore established in any burgh, town, or district of Scotland, and constituted, appointed, or confirmed, by any Order or Orders of His Majesty's Privy Council, certified under the hand of one of the Clerks in Ordinary of the Privy Council, shall remain and continue as at present constituted; and that all such Boards of Health shall proceed in the execution of the duties to be committed to them in such form, and according to such regulations as shall be directed and prescribed by any Order of His Majesty's Privy Council so certified as aforesaid: and it is further ordered that every practitioner of medicine within every burgh, town, or district in which every such Board of Health is or shall be constituted by Order of the Lords and others of His Majesty's Privy Council, shall, and he is hereby required and commanded to make to such Board a daily report, under his hand, containing a numerical account of all new cases, deaths, and recoveries of every person attended by such medical practitioner, who may be affected with the

said disease, or with any other disease anywise resembling the same. And all medical practitioners who shall neglect or omit to make any such returns, at the time or in the manner or form required by the Board of Health of the burgh, town, or district in which they reside, or in which the patient they attend resides, or who shall in any return wilfully make any false statement, are hereby warned and admonished, that the penalties and punishments consequent upon any such disobedience to this Order, and to the provisions of the before mentioned Act of Parliament, will forthwith be enforced against them.

And it is further ordered, that the Lord President of the Court of Session, the Lord Chief Justice Clerk, the Lord Advocate, or, in his absence, the Solicitor-General of Scotland, Sir John H. Dalrymple, Baronet, Sir James Gibson Craig, Baronet, the Sheriff of Edinburghshire, and John A. Murray, Esq., Advocate, be, and they are hereby appointed by the Lords and others of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one) to superintend and assist in the execution of the before mentioned Act in Scotland, and every part thereof.

C. C. GREVILLE.

AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WHITEHALL,

The 19th day of July, 1832.

BY THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE
PRIVY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the second year of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the prevention, as far as may be possible, of the disease called the cholera, or spasmodic, or Indian cholera, in England," it is, amongst other things, enacted that it shall and may be lawful for the Lords and others of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, or any two or more of them (of whom the Lord President of the Council, or one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the time being, shall always be one), by any Order or Orders, to revoke, renew, alter, or

vary all such rules and regulations, or to substitute any such new rules and regulations, as to them may appear necessary or expedient for the prevention, as far as may be possible, of the spreading of the said disease, called the cholera, or spasmodic, or Indian cholera, in England or Wales, or any part thereof, or for the relief of any persons suffering under, or likely to be affected by, the said disease :

And whereas it is further enacted by the said Act, that all and every the expenses which may be reasonably and properly incurred, in carrying into effect any Order of the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, made as aforesaid, shall, under and by virtue of an order in writing of some justice of the peace, dwelling in or near the parish or division (and which said order any such justice is thereby empowered and directed to make), commanding the churchwardens, overseers, or guardians of the poor, for the time being, to pay a certain sufficient sum of money for such purpose, be defrayed out of the rates for the relief of the poor of the parish, township, or extra parochial place maintaining its own poor, in which the same shall be incurred, and, in other extra parochial places, out of the poors' rate of the parish nearest adjoining :

And whereas the said disease hath extended to many parts of Great Britain, and other parts thereof may be affected by the same :

And whereas by an Order, made on the sixth day of March last past, by the Lords of the Privy Council, it was, amongst other things, ordered and directed, that every Board of Health, constituted by an Order of the Privy Council, for cities, towns, districts, or divisions of England and Wales, should and might apply to the select or parish vestry of every parish or place, for authority and powers to carry into effect the purposes of the Act before recited, and the measures of precaution in the said Order described :

And whereas for the prevention of the spread of the said disease, and for the relief of persons suffering under the same, and for the encouragement and promotion of the safe and speedy interment of persons dying of the said disease, the Lords and others of His Majesty's Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one), do deem it

expedient and necessary, that further powers should be granted to all Boards of Health properly constituted by an Order of the Lords in Council, and that certain nuisances and offensive and dangerous matters, having a tendency to promote infection, and which are likely to be prejudicial to the public health, should be abated and removed:

It is therefore ordered by the Lords and others of His Majesty's Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one), in pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in them by the before recited Act, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, that every Board of Health which now is, or hereafter shall be constituted, by virtue of an Order or Orders of His Majesty's Privy Council, certified under the hand of one of the Clerks in Ordinary of the Privy Council, shall and may, by their chairman or secretary, apply to the acting parish officers or district churchwardens for the time being, of the parish, township, ecclesiastical division, district, or place, for which such Boards of Health are appointed, to convene a meeting of the select vestry of such parish or place, or in parishes where no select vestry is established, to convene a meeting of the inhabitants in parish vestry, which said meetings in select or parish vestries the said parish officers or district churchwardens are hereby directed and commanded to convene, after three days' full notice of the time and place of holding the same: and at such meetings respectively, every such Board of Health shall and may submit to such select or parish vestries, proposals for their permission and consent that such Board of Health should be invested with all or any of the powers following (to wit): that such Boards should be enabled to expend and lay out a certain sum of money, of a fixed and declared amount (of the intended application and disposal of which money, a plan and estimate shall be at the same time submitted or tendered to the said vestry), for the purpose of furnishing medicines and medical assistance, nurses, and other necessary attendants to the sick poor at their own habitation, in all those cases where persons afflicted with the said disease cannot be conveniently removed to cholera hospitals; and further, of supplying medicines at different dispensary stations; together with the necessary

incidental expenses of every such Board of Health; also for the purpose of cleansing and whitewashing any house or habitation in which there exists dangerous impurities, and of removing, taking, and carrying away any corrupt, offensive, and dangerous matter within, or contiguous to, any house or habitation: also to effect the removal of any offal or filth from any slaughter house in any city, town, or populous district; also to engage medical inspectors to visit and report upon the sanitary state of health of all lodging-houses kept for the reception of vagrants; also for the purpose of opening and scouring any such drains or water courses, and of closing and covering any such open drains, ditches, and cesspools, as, being likely to be prejudicial to the public health, such parishes may be willing and desirous of undertaking to cleanse or cover, themselves defraying the expenses thereof out of the parish funds; also to purchase, inclose, and fence lands for burying grounds and cemeteries; also to pay the funeral expenses of persons dying of the said disease: and if such select or parish vestries shall consent and agree by a majority of the votes of the members or inhabitants then present, taken in the usual and ordinary manner of voting at such select or parish vestries, that it is salutary and expedient to confer all or any of such authority and powers upon the Board of Health appointed for such parish or place, that it shall and may be lawful for such Boards of Health, and they are hereby invested with authority and power, under and by virtue of this Order of the Lords of the Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one), to execute every one of such respective powers as shall be so conferred upon them as aforesaid, (to wit): upon receiving a certificate in writing, signed by two medical practitioners, of the existence of any offensive impurities, dangerous to the public health, within any house, or within twenty yards of any house or habitation, by themselves, their servants, or others of the King's subjects, to enter any dwelling-house, hut, or cabin in any street, lane, court, alley, gateway, passage, or place in any city, town, division, or district, and at some seasonable time (regard being always had to the convenience of the inmates thereof), to wash, scour, cleanse, whitewash, and fumigate the same,

and to empty and clean out the cellars thereof, and to clear, cleanse, and purify all the sink-holes and drains thereof, and also to remove all swine out of any dwelling-house, hut, or cabin to any adjoining hog-stye, when and so soon as such sufficient styes shall have been provided for the reception of the same at the expense of the parish: and with power to enter upon the lands or grounds of any person or persons, bodies politic, corporate, or collegiate, and to remove, take and carry away all decayed fruits, vegetables, and garden-stuff, all putrid fish, and any other corrupt or offensive and dangerous matter or thing, placed, deposited, or kept within twenty yards of any house or habitation; also to give notice to the owner or occupier of any slaughter-house in any city, town, or populous district, to remove, take and carry away any refuse, offal, garbage, filth, or sweepings of such slaughter-house, and to effectually wash and cleanse the same; and if such filth shall not be removed, or shall not be commenced or set about to be removed within one hour after such notice, then with full power and authority to enter every such slaughter-house and to remove, take and carry away all such offal, and all other rubbish and filth whatsoever: also with authority to appoint one or more such medical inspectors as aforesaid, to visit all lodging-houses used and kept for the reception of trampers and vagrants, once daily, at some seasonable hour, and to inquire into and report upon the condition of the same, and the state of health of the persons congregated therein, and the number of persons who have died of the said disease; and all such medical inspectors, so appointed as aforesaid, are hereby authorised and empowered to enter every such house for the purposes aforesaid, at the time and in the manner herein before mentioned: and with further powers for the said Boards of Health to open, cleanse, and scour any such drains, ditches, water-courses, soughs, gutters, and cesspools, and to close and cover any such open drains, ditches, and cesspools, as a majority of the said vestries shall agree to be offensive and dangerous, and to require such cleansing or covering respectively, and to have the consent of such vestry, or of a majority thereof, to the undertaking and engaging to cleanse and cover the same at the parish expense; the entire expense of the opening and

cleansing or of the closing and covering, of any such drain, ditch, or pool, respectively, in no case exceeding fifty pounds for the complete accomplishment of the same; provided always, that nothing in this Order contained shall be taken or held to extend to any drains, ditches, watercourses, soughs, gutters, and cesspools being within the jurisdictions of the commissioner of sewers, or of trustees, or others, having authority over the making or management of sewers, provided also, that the owner of the soil shall in every such case agree and consent to the scouring and cleansing, or closing and covering of the same: and with full permission and authority for every such Board of Health to purchase, inclose, and fence suitable lands for burial-grounds and cemeteries, to be used by all parishes in any city or town which shall agree to contribute a rateable proportion to the providing of such burying-grounds for cholera patients; provided always, that no lands used for any such interment shall be afterwards applied to any profane use, for the space of ten years then next ensuing: and when and so soon as any such Boards of Health, so authorised and empowered as aforesaid, shall have procured any such burying-grounds, without the walls, limits, or bounds of any city or town, but within a reasonable and convenient distance of the same, and shall have made all the necessary provisions and arrangements for the interment of bodies thereof, then in every such case the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one), do hereby strictly forbid, prohibit, and interdict the interment of any such person whomsoever, certified by a medical practitioner, to have died of the said disease of spasmodic, or Indian cholera, within the said city, in any church, churchyard, chapel, chapel-yard, cemetery, vault, burying-ground, or other place whatever used for the reception of dead bodies within the walls, limits, and bounds thereof, unless for any good and sufficient reasons which shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the said Board of Health, such Board shall determine that the regulations can be safely dispensed with in any particular excepted case, when it is further directed that the express grounds of such particular exception shall be truly and at length stated and entered in the minutes of

the proceedings of such Board of Health, and a copy of such entry shall forthwith be transmitted to the Clerk in Ordinary of the Privy Council, for the information of their Lordships; and the Lords of the Privy Council do further command and order that the interment of all persons certified by any medical practitioner to have died of the said disease of spasmodic or Indian cholera, shall take place within the space of twenty-four hours from the time of the death of every such person, and all the relations and nearest friends of every person dying, and all other of His Majesty's subjects having control over the disposal of the respective bodies, are hereby strongly enjoined, ordered, and directed to enforce the performance of this provision, under the pain of incurring the penalties denounced in the before recited Act, against all persons guilty of disobedience to the Orders of their Lordships in Council: and every such Board of Health is hereby empowered and allowed to discharge the funeral expenses of all persons dying of the said disease within the jurisdiction of the said Board, whose relations or friends shall procure the interment of the body within the before limited time of twenty-four hours after the decease of such persons, and according to the directions of the said Board of Health; also with full power and authority for every such Board of Health to burn and destroy, or cause to be burnt and destroyed, such clothes, bedding, or any other articles belonging to, or used by the deceased, in his or her lifetime as the said Board shall deem necessary to be destroyed, paying the value thereof to their legal representatives, to be charged upon the poors' rate of the parish in which such person died: but if such select or parish vestries shall not agree and determine by a majority of the votes of the members or inhabitants then present, taken in the usual and ordinary manner of voting at such vestries, that it is salutary and expedient to confer all or any of such powers upon the Boards of Health appointed for such parishes or places respectively, or if such owners of the soil, as aforesaid, shall not consent to the opening and scouring, or the closing and covering of drains and ditches and pools, at the expense of the parish as aforesaid, then it is ordered and enjoined that no such authority or powers, and no part of such powers as shall be refused or withheld by such vestries, shall be claimed

or exercised by any Board of Health in any parish or place, except when such, or any other authority and powers shall, upon due consideration of the premises, be conferred and given to any such Boards of Health by any Order or Orders to be made by the Lords and others of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, certified under the hand of one of the Clerks in Ordinary of the Privy Council :

And for defraying all and every the expenses which may be necessarily incurred in carrying into effect this Order of the Lords of the Privy Council, it shall be lawful for all such Boards of Health, and they are hereby authorised and directed, to make application, by their chairman or secretary, to some justice of the peace, living in or near the parish or division, to make an order, in writing, upon the parish officers, guardians of the poor, or district churchwardens of the parish or place, commanding them to pay a certain specified sum of money for such purpose, out of the rates levied, or next thereafter to be levied for the relief of the poor of such parish or place ; which order every such justice of the peace is hereby required and enjoined to make, in pursuance and exercise of the power vested in him by the before-recited Act ; and the said parish officers, guardians of the poor, or district churchwardens, are hereby ordered and commanded to pay such money, in obedience to the order of such justice, in the manner therein directed, or they will incur the penalties and punishments consequent upon disobedience to such before-recited Act, and to the present Order ; and all police and peace officers, all constables and headboroughs, and all others of His Majesty's subjects, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting in the execution of this Order :

And the Lords and others of His Majesty's Privy Council (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one) do hereby declare, that for all acts, deeds, matters, and things, which may be necessarily and properly done by any such justices of the peace, Boards of Health, medical practitioners, overseers, churchwardens, district churchwardens, guardians of the poor, inspectors, peace officers, constables, headboroughs, and others of His Majesty's subjects, in execution and furtherance of this present Order, this Order shall be their full and sufficient Warrant.

C. C. GREVILLE.

APPENDIX II.

HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH OF SHEFFIELD.

BY WILLIAM WHITE.

1833.

THE PARISH OF SHEFFIELD,

which has its name from the River Sheaf, is of great extent. It is about ten miles in length from east to west, and averages about three miles in breadth. It is divided into six townships, and contains many villages and hamlets, and an area of more than 22,000 acres.

TOWNSHIPS.	No. of Acres.	Annual Value in 1815.	POPULATION.					No. of Houses in 1821.
			1736	1801	1811	1821	1831	
Sheffield	3,436½	£ 75,217½	9,695	31,314	35,840	42,157	59,011	10,036
Brightside-Bierlow..	2,680	16,229	983	4,030	4,899	6,615	8,968	1,435
Ecclesall-Bierlow ...	4,180	19,164	2,353	5,362	6,569	9,113	14,279	1,949†
Hallam (Nether) ...	1,902	6,995	*	1,974	2,384	3,200	4,658	677
Hallam (Upper)	8,846	3,693	*	797	866	1,018	1,035	199
Attercliffe-cum- Darnall	1,336½	5,244	1,075	2,281	2,673	3,172	3,741	749
Total ...	22,381	126,542	14,106	45,758	53,231	65,275	91,692	15,045

*The population of Nether and Upper Hallam was included with Ecclesall-Bierlow, in the census which was taken in 1736, by order of the Church Burgesses, preparatory to presenting a petition to Parliament, to make St. Paul's Church parochial.

†In 1831, the number of houses in Sheffield township had increased to 13,061, of which, 652 were unoccupied, and 265 building, being an increase of 3,025 since 1821. The number of houses in Ecclesall-Bierlow, in 1831, had increased to 2,847, of which 163 were empty, and 165 building, being an increase of 898, during the last ten years.

The amount paid by the Parish, for Assessed Taxes, in 1830, was £12,605.

‡Rents, &c.—Of the houses in Sheffield Township, 6,383 are rated to the POOR RATES at under £5 per annum; 4,308 at from £5 to £10; 1,259 at £10 to £20; 301 at £20 to £30; 107 at £30 to £40; 71 at £40 to £50; 21 at £50 to £60; 22 at £60 to £80; 12 at £80 to £100. Of the shops and manufactories in the same Township, 514 are rated at under £5; 214 under £10; 141 under £20; 70 under £30; 23 under £40; 20 under £50; 10 under £60; 7 under £80; 2 under £100; and 18 above £100 per annum.

In May, 1818, two Acts of Parliament connected with the town of Sheffield received the Royal Assent—one for the establishment of a Police, and for the better lighting, watching, cleansing, and otherwise improving the town; and another for the incorporation of the Gas Light Company. The want of a regular and more efficient Police had long been evident in the town, and at one time an intention prevailed of invigorating it by the establishment of a Stipendiary Magistrate; but this proposal was very properly rejected by the good sense of the inhabitants, and rendered unnecessary by that zealous devotion to the public interest which distinguishes the neighbouring gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace. This Act has been productive of considerable benefit, as the town is now well lighted and watched, and many obstructions and other nuisances have been removed from the public streets; but much yet remains undone to which its operations may be extended, especially in the back streets and lanes. As many persons incur penalties under this Act from their ignorance of its powers, the following brief abstract may be serviceable.

The POLICE ACT is entitled, “An Act for cleansing, lighting, watching, and otherwise improving the town of Sheffield.”

Its powers extend throughout all the town and suburbs within the distance of three-quarters of a mile round the Parish Church, and are entrusted to the execution of the Town Trustees, the Master and Wardens of the Cutlers' Company, and about a hundred other gentlemen, who are appointed Commissioners and hold their meetings at the Town Hall. They elect a treasurer, a clerk, a surveyor, a collector, two streetkeepers, about fifty watchmen, a watch-house-keeper, and other officers; and for the purpose of defraying the expenses of lighting, watching, and improving the town, they are empowered to levy yearly a rate upon all occupiers of houses and other buildings, within the aforesaid limits, of not more than 1s. 3d. in the pound upon the assessed rental, to be collected in half-yearly moieties, except on those occupiers whose premises are not assessed to the poor rates at more than £7 per annum. Occupiers on entering or quitting houses, &c., are only liable to a portion

of the rates, according to the time they are in possession of the premises. The Act directs that every occupier shall cleanse and sweep the footways and channels in front of their respective premises on every Wednesday and Saturday, before the hour of ten o'clock in the morning, and at such other times as the Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall direct, and shall cause the dirt arising from such cleansing to be put together, out of the way of carriages, &c., in order that the same may be removed by the public scavenger, on the penalty of any sum not exceeding 10s. for every offence. Penalties of from 10s. to 20s. are also ordered to be levied by the magistrates on all persons found guilty of emptying or causing to be emptied any privy or necessary house betwixt the hours of ten in the morning and twelve at night; for committing any nuisance or annoyance in the streets; for wheeling or carrying any barrow upon the footpaths, or carrying thereon any iron rods or bars after sunset; for making bonfires or letting off any firearms in the streets, except in self-defence; and upon any drivers of wagons, &c., who leave their horses in the streets; or any milk-carriers who drive their horses, asses, or mules "faster than a foot-pace." Fines on builders, &c., for making encroachments in the streets, &c., and for various other offences are imposed; but one clause in the Act, which requires the owners and occupiers of steam engines to consume their own smoke, under a penalty of £50, has never been enforced; and another, which empowers the Commissioners to name the streets and number the doors, has not yet been properly carried into effect; for the numbers which have been affixed on the doors by their painter are placed in a very irregular manner, and many thousands of them have been effaced, though every person who repaints his door and neglects to restore his number is liable to a penalty of from 10s. to 20s. It is further enacted that a yearly account of all moneys paid and received shall be made out, and that any ratepayers shall have the liberty of inspecting the same by paying one shilling to the clerk, and that an abstract of the said account shall be published yearly in one of the Sheffield newspapers. The amount of rates collected under this Act in 1832 was £5,073 7s. 6d. (the expenditure

of the Police Commissioners in 1824 was £4,464 6s. 2d., viz., for lighting streets, £1,238; for cleansing, £403; for watching, £1,670; for salaries, £304; and in miscellaneous expenses, £280); and we think that with such an annual income, the Commissioners, as they have not yet been at any expense in widening public thoroughfares (part of the income of the Town Trustees is employed in widening public thoroughfares), might afford more and better lights than those twinkling oil lamps, which, at a great distance from each other, still serve to render "darkness visible" in most of our back streets, where, from the neglect and partiality of the yearly Commissioners of the Highways, the passenger has to grope his way in the dark nights of winter over unpaved roads abounding in stagnant waters and deep mires—a grievance which calls loudly for redress and which nothing but a Paving Act for the whole town and suburbs can remedy, as the present system of electing yearly, separate Commissioners for each township seems only to afford the officers so chosen an opportunity, during "their brief authority," of improving their own estates, whilst the more crying nuisances of the town are neglected, though, in Sheffield township alone, no less than £6,807 was collected as highway rates in 1832.

*The eventful year 1832 was at Sheffield pregnant with both joy and sorrow, for in it the town was raised to the rank of parliamentary borough, and after receiving an awful visitation of that fatal disease, Asiatic Cholera, the election of its first representatives was stained with the blood of several of its inhabitants.

†But the political disputations of the people soon received an awful check by the visitation of that malignant disease, Asiatic Cholera, which, after ravaging Sunderland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Leeds, and many other places, was first observed at Sheffield on the 8th of July, and though every precaution was taken by the Board of Health to prevent the spreading of the malady, the number of deaths on the 4th of August amounted to 59; on the 11th, to 122; on the 18th,

* Page 83.

† Pages 85-86

to 207; on the 25th, to 299; on the 15th of September, to 368; and on the 6th of October, 390. On the 5th of November, when the entire cessation of the cholera in the town was announced by the Board of Health, there had been 1,347 persons reported as having been afflicted with the disease, of whom 945 had recovered and 402 died. This fatal scourge was most virulent in the month of August, when the humane feelings of the inhabitants were often shocked by seeing in the evening the hasty funerals of friends whom they had seen walking the streets in the morning in apparent health! The Sheffield Board of Health, which, like the other local boards, derived its power from an Act of Parliament passed in the early part of 1832, deemed it necessary, for the benefit of the living, to enforce the interment of the dead within a few hours after their decease, and sometimes they were hurried to their graves before their friends were fully satisfied that life was really extinct, and indeed the soporific drugs, which were but too freely administered, were well calculated to produce on the weak and half-famished bodies of the poor, the suspension of all apparent animation. . . . An Hospital for the reception of Cholera patients was opened at the Sheffield Workhouse, and another in the Park, by the Board of Health, who were authorized by a meeting of ratepayers, held July 26th, to provide every accommodation for the sufferers. The expenses thus incurred amounted to several thousand pounds, and were defrayed out of the poor rates of Sheffield and the adjacent townships. The general Fast Day on March 21st was not observed at Sheffield with so much piety and devotion by the inhabitants at large, as the local Fast Day held on August 22nd, to supplicate the Divine Throne for the remission of the Cholera which was then ravaging the town. A day of thanksgiving for the removal of that pestilence was observed on the 22nd of November.

THE PARISH OF SHEFFIELD is bounded on the north by Stannington and Wadsley, from which it is separated by the Rivelin and the Loxley. Its western boundary is an irregular line on the moors of Hathersage and Stannington, where the junction of the three

parishes of Sheffield, Ecclesfield, and Hathersage is marked by Stanage Pole, about seven miles west of the town. From Ringinglow to the south-west corner of Ecclesall Wood it has the Limbdyke, and thence the Sheaf as far as Heeley, where the Meersbrook forms the southern boundary line. Its eastern limits is marked by the Carbrook and the fields of Tinsley and Handsworth. The parishes Hathersage, Dronfield, and Norton, which bound it on the south-west and south, are in the county of Derby, which approaches nearest to the town at Heeley, where the Meersbrook falls into the Sheaf, and the latter first enters the parish, but, after a course of two miles, is lost in the Don under the Castle Hill. Nearly the whole of this large parish is now enclosed and cultivated, and the soil is generally a deep clay, rendered very productive by the quantity of manure bestowed upon it. It abounds in wood and water, and in those three important mineral bodies, coal, stone, and iron, which are also found in the surrounding parishes, and form the very life of the manufactures, for which Sheffield has long been famed. (pp. 6 and 7.)

ATTERCLIFFE-CUM-DARNALL township and chapelry occupies a triangular area at the south-eastern extremity of the parish, bounded on the north by the Don, on the east by Carbrook rivulet, on the south by Handsworth parish, and on the west by Sheffield Park. It includes the villages of Attercliffe and Darnall, the hamlet of Carbrook, a number of scattered dwellings, the Park Iron Works, and Sunderland Moor and Greenland Collieries, distant from one to three miles E. and S.E. of Sheffield. It is intersected by the canal, from which there is a branch to the exhausted coal mine of Greenland. The Duke of Norfolk is lord of the manor, and impropiator, but the soil belongs to a number of freeholders, except Darnall, which forms a small manor, of which the heir of the late General Spencer is lord. The common and waste lands were enclosed in 1811, when many of the ancient footpaths were closed, but the gibbet post of Spence Broughton remained till about three years ago, when it was taken down by Mr. Sorby and removed to his residence at Spital Hill.

ATTERCLIFFE is the largest village in the parish of Sheffield, and is on the Doncaster and Worksop roads, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the Market Place. It is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, and many of its inhabitants are employed in the manufacture of pen and pocket knives, scissors, anvils, scythes, spades, shovels, cast steel, etc. The old chapel-of-ease, at the eastern extremity of the village, was built in 1679, by Stephen Bright, of Carbrook, William Spencer, of Attercliffe Hall, and other principal

inhabitants, who endowed it with £10 per annum, but it is now only used for sepulchral purposes, having an extensive burial ground, which was enlarged in 1754, and again in 1786, when 900 square yards were added from the waste. The inhabitants now assemble for divine worship in Christ Church, a handsome Gothic fabric with lancet windows, a profusion of stained glass, and a handsomely groined roof. This church, built at the expense of £14,000, granted by Parliament, stands near the bold cliff which overhangs the Don, and is said to have formerly been the resort of otters, from which circumstance the village probably had its name. The first stone was laid by the Duke of Norfolk, assisted by Earl Fitzwilliam, and attended by the Earl of Surrey, Lord and Lady Milton, and about 5,000 spectators, on October 30th, 1822; and the church was opened July 26th, 1826. The living is a curacy, in the gift of the vicar, and until the death of the late Rev. E. Goodwin, it was always enjoyed by one of the three assistant-ministers of the parish church. Since 1817, the Rev. John Blackburn, A.M., has enjoyed the living, which was augmented with two sums of £200 in 1731, and 1756, by the governor of Queen Anne's Bounty, who also, in 1820, purchased the present parsonage-house and croft, and have since augmented the benefice by several allotments of the royal bounty. The Independents and Methodists have each a chapel in the village. The Town School was built by subscription about 1779, and the master has, for teaching a Sunday School, £3 3s. yearly, from the bequest of Robert Clay, Esq., in 1786; and £13 9s. 6d. yearly from £449 3s. 4d. three per cent. stock purchased with £300 left by Mrs. Elizabeth Fell, in 1795. The Girls' National School was built by subscription in 1824. The poor have the interest of £50 left by Elizabeth Grammar, in 1720; £50 by Wm. Staniforth, in 1786, and £20 left by Samuel Staniforth, Esq., in 1820. The latter belongs solely to the Darnall poor, who have also £9 4s. yearly from land allotted at an enclosure, and £60 obtained by the sale of timber; and four almshouses, with an allowance of 21s. and a load of coals yearly to each inmate, from Mr. Staniforth, of Liverpool.

CARBROOK, a hamlet and estate on the Rotherham Road, 2½ miles E. by N. of Sheffield, belonging to Admiral Frank Sotheron, and having an ancient hall long occupied by the Brights, and still retaining traces of its former consequence.

DARNALL is a scattered village upon a commanding eminence, on the Worksop Road, 3 miles E. of Sheffield. The hall, which was built by the Staniforths, who resided there for several generations, is now the seat of Mr. John Sanderson. Here it was that William Walker, the supposed executioner of Charles I, resided.

BRIGHTSIDE-BIERLOW township includes the village of Grimesthorpe, Brightside, Neepsend, Pitsmoor, and Crabtree; the seats of New Hall, Hall Car, Burngreave, Norwood, Shirecliffe, Firshill, etc.; the woods of Wincobank, Hall Car-Cook, Old Park, etc., and those populous suburbs of Sheffield called the Wicker, Nursery, and Brookhouses, lying on the left bank of the Don. This populous township is without any episcopal place of worship. Its principal charity has lately been absorbed in law expenses incurred by the litigious spirit of the trustees. This charity consisted of £550 left in 1793 by Mrs. Elizabeth Fell, who directed the interest of £300 to be employed towards the support of a Sunday School, and the yearly produce of the remainder to be distributed amongst the poor on St. John's Day. In 1826, part of the trustees turned Miss Huldart (daughter of the late master) out of the school buildings, with her goods and furniture, and placed therein the present master, to whom Mr. Swallow, the trustee who held the money, refused to pay the interest, in consequence of which the overseers and chapelwardens, J. S. Tailor, S. Redfern, and Wm. Pass, filed a bill against him in Chancery, and the suit ended in 1832, in a decree that the costs of both parties should be paid out of the charity funds. The only benefactions now possessed by the township are £40, vested with overseers and left by some person unknown, and £3 10s. from land purchased with £50 left by John Mirfield in 1785. For these, twelve poor children are educated in the school at Grimesthorpe, which was built by subscription in 1802 on land given by the Duke of Norfolk, the lord of the manor. The poor rates in 1790 amounted to £327; in 1800, to £1012; in 1810, to £2441; in 1820, to £4055; in 1830, to £3548; and in 1832 to £3550.

BRIGHTSIDE is a scattered village on the Don, 3 miles E.N.E. of Sheffield. Here are two extensive iron forges, a deserted paper mill, and New Hall, the pleasant seat of Richard Swallow, Esq., erected by the late John Fell, Esq., who amassed considerable wealth in the iron works here and whose widow, after appropriating much to charity, bequeathed the residue of her ample fortune to the late Mr. Swallow.

GRIMESTHORPE lies in a picturesque situation, under the woody hill of Wincobank, two miles N.E. by N. of Sheffield, and is inhabited chiefly by grinders and fork and shear makers. It has a Wesleyan Chapel, and two Sunday Schools.

ECCLESALL-BIERLOW township forms the south-western portion of the parish lying chiefly betwixt the Sheaf and the Porter, but including a large portion of what may be properly called the town of Sheffield. Since the year 1736 the population of this division has increased from

2,352 to 14,279 souls. It includes the hamlets of Abbey Dale, Banner Cross, Bents Green, Button Hill, Cherry Tree Hill, Grey Stones, High Field, Little Common, Little Sheffield, Miln Houses, Sharrow Moor, Machon Bank, Upper and Nether Edge, Brincliffe Edge, Warlow, and Whiteley Wood, distant from 2 to 4 miles W. and S.W. of Sheffield. It also comprises Broom Hall, and a large portion of Crooks Moor. It has many handsome villas and well-built streets which are amongst the best portions of the town and suburbs, especially on and near the Glossop road. The beautiful Gothic mansion of Banner Cross was rebuilt by the late General Murray, who died in 1818, before the work was completely finished. This charming sylvan retreat is now the seat of the Rev. W. Bagshawe. There is no village of Ecclesall, the Chapel of Ease being near Banner Cross, where it was built in 1788, on the site of a small ancient fabric, in which the monks of Beauchief had long filled the pastoral office. It is a neat brick building, about 3 miles from the town, attended by a numerous congregation and having a spacious burial ground, which has long been the most fashionable place of sepulture in the parish, as is evident from the multitude and character of its memorials of the dead. Upper and Nether Hallam are in this chapelry. The living is a curacy, which Hunter estimates at about £100 a year. The vicar is the patron, and the Rev. W. H. Vale the incumbent, for whom a good house has lately been provided near the chapel. From several benefactions the poor have £7 14s. yearly, and the master of Sharrow School £9 10s. for six free scholars.

NETHER HALLAM township includes the hamlets of Upperthorpe, Walkley, Malin Bridge, Hill Foot, Philadelphia, and Owlerton, stretching from one to two miles N.N.W. Steel Bank, Crookes, and Hallam Gate, 2 miles W. by N.; Endcliffe, Lidgate, and Tapton, 2 miles S., and Newfield Green 3 m. S. by E. of Sheffield. The School at Crooks is endowed with land let for £22 a year, purchased with £100 left by W. Roncksley in 1723. Joseph Wolstenholme, 1757, left the interest of £10 to the poor.

UPPER HALLAM is an extensive, wild, and thinly populated township forming the north-western portion of the parish, bounded on the north by the Rivelin, and on the south by the Porter, and containing the scattered hamlets of Carsick Hill, Cross Pool, Fulwood, Nether Green, Ranmoor, Sandygate, Stephen Hill, and Stumperley, from 3 to 5 miles west of Sheffield. The Independents have a Chapel at Fulwood, and the Methodists another at Ranmoor. The School at Fulwood is endowed with land let for £13 13s. a year, purchased with several benefactions.

Near it is a mineral spring, which was in great repute in 1666, when the plague prevailed in this and the adjacent county, but it has long been neglected.

THE MANOR is a small village 2 miles E.S.E. of Sheffield, and formed principally in the ruins of the ancient Manor House. It is Sheffield township, nearly in the centre of the Park, which is now enclosed and contains a populous suburb of the town on the acclivity rising from the Sheaf, and many scattered farmhouses, villas, etc., the principal of which are The Farm (a handsome Gothic mansion, occupied by Michael Ellison, Esq., the Duke of Norfolk's agent), Belle Vue, Park House, and Park Grange. The Park, once covered with noble forest trees, occupies a large triangular area, bounded by the Sheaf, the Don, the townships of Attercliffe-cum-Darnall, the parish of Handsworth, and the villages of Heeley and Newfield Green.

The RIVELIN and the LOXLEY, from the west, after supplying numerous *dams* and grinding wheels, and skirting along wooded hills and naked precipices, fall into the Don, a little to the north of the town.

The DON, after these additions, runs in a south-easterly direction to the lowest part of the town, where, being joined by the Sheaf (from which the town derives its name), it turns nearly due north, and flows in the fine open valley which stretches to Rotherham.

The SHEAF enters the precincts of the town, on the south side, from the picturesque scenery of Abbey Dale and Beauchief Wood, and takes a course nearly northward, with occasional wanderings, previous to being lost in the Don. About half a mile before it arrives at the point where it becomes tributary, it receives the waters of the Porter. This little stream is a native of the parish, springing in Upper Hallam; and its course is marked by the formation of tiny lakes,—reservoirs of water,—whence several mills, forges, and grinding wheels derive their propulsive power; and these objects give to the valley through which it flows an air of enchantment that has long warmed the imagination and enriched the portfolios of artists.

The Don, the Sheaf, and the Porter form three sides of a peninsulated area, upon which stands the greater part of the town. The apex of this area is the confluence of the Sheaf and the Don; on each side of it, but more gently towards the Sheaf and the Porter than in the direction of the Don, the apex rises into a boldly swelling hill, the ridge of which passes through the centre, and the western portions of the town, and beyond even its remotest suburbs. From the confluence of the Sheaf and the Porter rises a similarly beautiful hill. On the north

side of the Don the scenery is perhaps still more imposing; the steep declivity is clothed by forest trees of the Old Park Wood, over which appears a portion of the pleasant village of Pitsmoor. The summits and sides of all these hills are, in the vicinity of the town, studded with neat and elegant villas—the residences of the gentry and the leading manufacturers and merchants. On the eastern side of the Sheaf, near its junction with the Don, the Park, covered with dwellings, rises like an amphitheatre above the rest of the town to a ridge not inaptly termed SKY EDGE, from which point, under favourable circumstances, almost the whole of Sheffield, and its surrounding villages for a considerable distance, may be discerned.

The following remarks, descriptive of the immediate scenery of the town, are from the pen of a native, Rev. J. Hunter, F.R.S., whose elegance, accuracy, and deep research give a peculiar value to his observations:—

“The distance of the parish of Sheffield from the Eastern and Western Seas is nearly equal; and although it is further from the most northern point of Scotland than from the southern coast of England, yet in a line which might be drawn nearly straight from Liverpool to Hull, passing through Sheffield, would divide the island into two nearly equal portions. It lies on the Eastern side of that high and mountainous tract which Dodworth, who rarely hazards such a remark, says may be called the English Appennines; ‘because the rain water which there falleth sheddeth from sea to sea.’ The ridge of this tract lies nearly in the direction from north to south. The mountains of Westmorland, Craven, and the Peak belong to it, and it is finally lost to the south in the moorlands of Staffordshire. Sheffield lies rather at the foot of these hills than among them.

“Qua se subducere colles

Incipiunt, mollique jugum demittere clivo

Usque ad aquam.”*

“The town stands at least at the point of union of many streams, that become not inconsiderable, which have their rise amongst those hills, and where the hills are fast subsiding into that fine level champagne country which extends to Doncaster and beyond it.

“It is in a country like this that we look for the *beautiful* in landscape. The grander and more august features of nature are to be

**Virgil*, Eclogues ix, 7, 8, 9: “Where the hills begin to swell from the plain, and downward drop their ridge with gentle slope, as far as the fountain.”

—Lonsdale & Lee. Trans.

sought in regions decidedly mountainous; and are contemplated with more complete satisfaction where the artificial creations of man have not intruded to break the harmony of the scene. But the softer graces of landscape are chiefly to be found in a district uneven, but not mountainous, and may be contemplated with not less pleasure because among them are to be found some of the works of human hands. Close and well-wooded valleys, with streams glittering among them, and the bare scar occasionally peeping through the foliage: hills appearing from behind other hills of nearly equal altitude, some bearing fine masses of wood, and others studded with cheerful villas: views of wonderful extent, embracing variety of objects, some of which are associated with events of historical importance: these are what the vicinity of Sheffield presents to the lovers of picturesque beauty, and which never fail to arrest the attention of the passing traveller."

APPENDIX III.

PEEPS INTO THE PAST.

THE DIARIES OF THOMAS ASLINE WARD.

By Bell and Leader. 1909.

1832 (p. 299).—In July this year, cholera made its appearance in Sheffield, and spread with a rapidity that largely diverted attention from the political crisis. It was at its height when the letter from which we are now quoting was written, there being 265 new attacks and 92 deaths in that week, and a few days afterwards there was, among the victims, Mr. John Blake, the retiring Master Cutler :—

My family are well. They do not go so frequently to Sheffield now the cholera is prevalent there; and I restrain the taste for fruit, and recommend a cautious diet. A sister of one of our servants has died of the complaint, also two men who worked for us. One of the latter was at the Methodist Chapel on Wednesday morning, was seized that night, died on Thursday, and was buried this morning. I think the chief victims have been feeble in constitution, intemperate in habit, or distressed in their circumstances. Some, it is true, have been otherwise; but the vicinity has generally been filthy. Some of the nurses have died. Dr. Knight has been slightly affected; but the medical gentlemen have escaped very well. I trust the disease will soon have completed its course; but it continues to average about 40 cases each day. May Heaven preserve us!

The cholera was abating throughout September and October, and by the 20th of November the danger was past, justifying a general thanksgiving service. The total cases had been 1,347. Of these 945 were not fatal. The Monument at the top of South Street, Park, marks the burial place of the 402 victims.

Mr. Ward, we learn from his diary, frequently presided over the meetings of a Cholera Committee which had been formed in the town.

1834-35 (p. 305).—The mortality occasioned here by the cholera two years ago is about to be commemorated by a monumental cross on the hill above Clay Wood. It will be an interesting feature to a considerable distance, and is to cost £300.

1848-49 (p. 311).—Your son and daughter are living very quiet lives. How do you feel about cholera? It is very bad at New York, but Asline sends me good accounts of his health.

SHEFFIELD, PAST AND PRESENT.

By Rev. A. Gatty, D.D.

(p. 239).—In the year 1831, 14,734 persons were employed in the whole parish of Sheffield in trade and manufactures.

The year 1832 proved to be both a sad and exciting time. In the month of July, just after anxiety had been allayed on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, by the passing of "the Bill—the whole Bill," it was announced by the Board of Health that cholera, a disease which had hitherto been supposed to be confined to the East, was now in Sheffield; and the complaint was so novel, swift, and deadly in its attack, that wherever it broke out it produced some degree of panic. Measures, however, were speedily taken to combat the new enemy, though the period was unfavourable to resistance, for the cry of bad times was already being heard, and this is apt to damp the spirit of a community.

The record in September of this year gives the following report: "The trade of Sheffield is in a very depressed state, and there appears little prospect of material improvement. The American trade, which usually furnishes employment for a large portion of the workmen, is completely at a stand." Into this condition the business of the town had been drifting for some months past. What employment could be given was rather in anticipation of orders than to meet a demand; and the workmen had to submit to a reduction of wages, whilst the payments to the casual poor were double in amount of what they had been in the corresponding weeks of the previous year.

The visitation of a new and violent disease was keenly felt in the midst of so much general misfortune; not only by the working class, who were most exposed to attack from cholera, but also by the officials, whose duty compelled them to adopt stringent measures for improving the sanitary condition of the houses. The gentlemen who were engaged in the arduous service of superintending the application of remedies, found their labours and responsibility very serious from the very novelty of the complaint. Nevertheless, they had their reward, for, on the 5th November, an official report was issued, announcing an entire cessation of the scourge, after 1,347 persons had been attacked, of whom 402 died, including Mr. John Blake, the Master Cutler for the year.

The spread of the disease and the mortality would probably have been much greater, had there been cellar and unventilated dwellings in the town, such as often exist in similar localities. A day of public thanksgiving was appointed about a fortnight after the plague had ceased, and the Cholera Monument, raised in 1834, marks the spot where its victims lie buried.

REMINISCENCES OF OLD SHEFFIELD.

Ed. by R. E. Leader. 2nd Ed. 1876.

(p. 234).—JOHNSON: One of my earliest recollections is standing in Howard Street on a summer's night, and seeing the funerals of cholera victims in the Cholera Ground at Clay Wood in 1832, and I recollect few things that seemed more appalling than this, and the sight of the "Cholera Basket," as the conveyance used to transport patients to the hospital was called.

BURGERY OF SHEFFIELD.

By John Daniel Leader.

(p. 458) (Cholera).—Town Trustees' meeting, 7th November, 1831. It was resolved that the Magistrates, the Cutlers' Company, the Church Burgesses, the Infirmary Board, the surveyors of Highways, and the Church wardens and overseers of the poor for the several townships within the parish, the deputation from the Police commissioners already appointed and the members of the medical profession be invited by advertisement to meet the town trustees at the Cutlers' Hall on Wednesday next the 9th inst, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to determine on the means to be adopted for preventing the Cholera or mitigating it should that malignant disease unfortunately appear in Sheffield. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the members of the medical Institution and to Dr Thompson for their valuable communications on the subject. That circulars be specially addressed to Hugh Parker Esq, as senior magistrate, Dr Favell, as secretary of the Medical Institution, Dr Thompson, the Master Cutler, the Capital Church Burgess, the Chairman of the Infirmary Board, and Mr Edward Smith as secretary to the Society for Bettering the condition of the poor, requesting their attendance at the proposed meeting on the 9th inst.⁽¹⁾

Nov. 11, 1831 (p. 459).—Collector authorised to say the Trust will contribute as the emergency of the occasion may require towards the fund for preventing or mitigating the cholera.

Dec. 30, 1831.—£200 voted towards the present wants of the cholera committee.

¹ Notwithstanding the precautions adopted, the Cholera appeared in the town in 1832, and from July to November attacked 1,347 persons, of whom 402 died.

Sept. 6, 1832 (p. 461).—£200 having been voted in aid of the cholera fund, and £150 only having been paid, resolved that the remaining £50 be appropriated to the discharge of the demands on that account not falling within the strict letter of the orders in Council.

Oct. 17, 1834 (p. 465).—£20 contributed to the erection of a monument on the cholera burial ground.

LIFE OF JOHN HOLLAND.

By William Hudson.

1832 (p. 167).—Cholera was at this time raging in England. On the 8th of July it made its appearance in Sheffield. Some cases had occurred also in Newcastle. Then let the reader try to comprehend Mr Holland's case. He had left home, anticipating unhappiness; and it had come to him in abundance. Describing transient domestic "incommodities," he compares himself to a squirrel in a cage, without the convenience of a hutch in which to hide; but, then, he was in such a state of utter mental infelicity, that "a study" would have been of very little service to him; and he describes himself as being quite unable to attend to anything in the way of literature. Why was he so unhappy? let the simple facts answer. He had an intense love of home and of those whom he had left in the house in Sheffield Park; a pestilence was raging in his native town, and he was afraid of receiving the worst possible news. Cholera being at work also in Newcastle, he knew his most precious and most dearly beloved mother was full of fear as to his safety; he was among entire strangers, with not one of whom he could have his customary free and affectionate talk; and he was in a town in contrast to which, to him at least, Sheffield, notwithstanding its smoke, was the perfection of sweetness.

(pp. 172-173).—The cholera soon began to subside on the banks of the Tyne but it was at the same time increasing in Sheffield. The inhabitants of that town kept the 22nd of August as a day of special humiliation and prayer; and it is recorded that "assuredly never before had such a day been so observed." Appropriate hymns composed for the occasion were sung in the different churches and chapels of the town; and the people truly humbled themselves under the mighty hand of God, and prayed in confidence that he would hear and answer. And soon the visitation began to pass away. On the 3rd of October, Mr

Holland wrote a long and very interesting letter to Montgomery, from which the following paragraphs have been selected:—

"It is with grateful feelings to Almighty God, that I perceive from the *Iris* so great a declension in the ravages of the *disorder* in Sheffield, and, at the same time, that my sisters, in letters received from them from the Park, state that they now rarely witness at a distance in that 'place of graves,' near the Clay Wood, the indistinct but certain and appalling indications that another and another are being committed to unconsecrated earth. In Newcastle the disorder is almost extinct; at least, so say the surgeons whom I happen to see. Still, however, 'the angel of destruction lingers'; but whether his aspect be at this moment rarely valedictory or anticipatory, the ensuing winter only can decide. Glad I am that it is not in *my* power to foresee the results of providence in this momentous question. I wish that I could only believe myself living in such wise as to be prepared either to die, if such be the will of my Heavenly Father, at this strange crisis in this strange place, or to live if such be the divine pleasure, to glorify the goodness of my Saviour by a more devoted attachment to His will; as it is, the shafts of the destroyer are striking one and another about me. The victims drop as suddenly, and more unexpectedly, than if they were stricken by a cannon ball in battle! They are touched, they fall! There is no graduated account of the progress of their disease. There is no ascending or suspected climax of anxiety and hope. It is said, they are dead; they died of the Cholera. And that astoundingly *prosaic* saying comprises all that can be said of the demise of the great doctor Adam Clarke, and of the insignificant Josey Hague, good man! I have, indeed, felt much on hearing how many poor people, whom I used to know in the Park, have fallen in that great victory which death, always victorious, has recently celebrated in Sheffield Park."

1832 (p. 188).—On the 27th of August Mr Holland wrote a letter to the editor of the *Mercury*, urging the erection of some suitable memorial on the ground where the victims of the Cholera had been buried. He stated the case in a manner adapted to carry conviction to many readers; and, whatever his contribution to the final result might be, a movement was soon begun which yielded in the end all that he had desired. He foresaw that some means must be adopted, if a perpetuity of due respect for that "field to bury strangers in" was to be secured; and it was a pleasure to him that before the end of the year Montgomery laid the "corner stone" of that monumental cross which still marks "the Cholera ground" by the side of the way to

Sheffield Park. How often has that monument preached a useful sermon to persons passing by!

1849 (pp. 333-334).—Cholera was at this time prevalent again in England; and Friday, the 28th of September, was observed in Sheffield as a day of Humiliation and prayer for the removal of the disease. Prayer was heard and answered, and, by the blessing of God upon the means employed, “the plague was stayed,” and then Thursday, the 15th of November, was observed as a day of thanksgiving. Those two special days were days “to be remembered,” and Mr Holland composed for each of them a sonnet, as a memorial of a visitation which ought not to be forgotten in Sheffield, and of the goodness of Almighty God in “staying His hand.”

MEMOIRS OF JAMES MONTGOMERY. Vol. V.

By John Holland and James Everett.

(pp. 27, 28).—“‘The country,’ said he, ‘appears at this moment to be threatened with three imminent perils,—*civil war*, of which the recent riots at Bristol may be but the beginning; the *ruin of trade* by the destruction of machinery, of which we have had some lamentable examples of late; and the *prevalence of pestilence*, in the form of Cholera, which is already so fast and fatally spreading at Sunderland!’ These views of things gave an air of sadness and solemnity to his conversation at this period.”

(p. 51).—Letter from James Montgomery to John Holland.

“Sheffield, Aug. 25th, 1832.

“A subject of far more concern has occupied much of my time since your removal,—the cholera came among us immediately afterwards, and of its daily devastations you have been sufficiently informed by the newspapers. Soon after the official establishment of the Board of Health, I was appointed chairman, and have never neglected my duties in that capacity, so far as I understood them, on any occasion. I cannot say much on the subject in reference to my personal feelings; but I will state, in acknowledgment of the goodness of the Lord in keeping me still in the land of the living, that I have hitherto (amidst occasional natural apprehensions) been preserved from tormenting fears, and have been enabled to stay my soul upon Him whose I am and whom it is my prayer (comprehending all that I can ask or think) that I may serve and love with all my ransomed powers and sanctified affections.

"I have often thought that you may have been taken hence from the evil that might have befallen you had you continued to reside where you were born, as you must daily, in coming to town, have passed through the 'city of the plague,'—'Sheffield Park,' so honoured by being associated with your name, and its better part immortalised by your muse, having been more severely visited by the Destroyer than any other section of the town; and *twice* every twenty-four hours the mourners going about the streets, following the dead-cart, carrying to their long home those who had fallen by the sudden stroke between night and morning, and between morning and evening. The burial-place is a field opposite the Shrewsbury Hospital, including that footpath which was stopt up some two or three years ago, to my annoyance and yours too, where generations had trod for centuries in their way of life but where now no foot will step again for an age to come without communicating a sympathetic chill to the heart capable of such emotion in memory of those who lie below. It is a place of peculiar character—'a field to bury strangers in;'—for they are separated from their families, a sad community, all of whom died of one disease! I will say no more. . . .

(p. 54).—"You must be aware, from the newspapers, that since the 8th of July, when the first case appeared, that new pestilence which both walketh in darkness and destroyeth at noon-day,—the fearful and mysterious cholera,—has been smiting down, on the right hand and on the left, men, women, children here. The last three or four days the number of new patients has been greatly increased beyond all former proportion,—a hundred since Tuesday,—though the mortality has not kept proportionate pace. The whole return this day, for four weeks and six days, is 352 cases, 122 deaths, 145 remaining. Coward as I am in nerve and muscle, I have been preserved from much more than *that* fear of death in which I live daily, even when the 'end of all things here' seems farthest off. But it is impossible for flesh and blood, united to soul and spirit, not to be deeply moved, and painfully sensible sometimes of that mortality which may be realised to the hardiest and healthiest of us in a moment. But I find this assurance in that book which contains the words of eternal life,—'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusted on Thee.' God bless you!

"Your friend, J. Montgomery.

"George Bennet, Esq.,

"Independent Chapel, Bridlington."

The cholera, which had now nearly subsided on the banks of the Tyne and Wear, increased to such an extent in Sheffield that the 22nd August was kept as a day of special humiliation and prayer by the inhabitants: and assuredly never before had *such a day* been so observed! Montgomery, who daily took an active part with the clergy, civil authorities, and medical staff in meeting the perilous and solemn exigencies of the occasion, composed two appropriate hymns,* which were used in the different churches and chapels of the town.

Miss Rowntree was not the only one of his friends who would fain have had him leave Sheffield during the fearfully fatal visitation of the cholera; but his answer to her solicitation was, in substance, that which he returned to others:—

(p. 55).—"Now a word or two for that part of your letter which refers to myself, and the circumstances of apparent peril in which I seem to stand, and the cordial offer of refuge which you once more, and probably for the last time, propose to me. I have so repeatedly been put to the inexpressible pain of doing what is most painful in friendship to a sensitive and grateful heart (which I yet trust mine, with all its perversities, is),—refusing a kindness,—that I will not now torture language—rather, torture my own feelings and grieve yours—by attempting to find new terms under which to make the evasion of your inducement to visit Scarborough less ungracious than I fear, say what I will, it may seem to you. I am at present where I ought to be; and no more than I dare run into the way of danger, dare I run out of it. From the commencement of the Board of Health under the Act of Parliament, I have been daily in attendance at it (with the exception of a brief visit to Fulneck); and the dreadful disease, of whose ravages I have been thus almost every hour informed or reminded in some way or other, has become so familiar to my thoughts, that no other subject, I believe, has more occupied them, though a multitude of other concerns have relieved the burthen by exchanging it for their own. I have thus far been preserved from tormenting fear, and in quite as much health as I ever enjoy. I have indeed had many serious and awful feelings and forebodings of what might happen to myself as likely as to any one of my ninety thousand neighbours; and the infirmity of flesh and blood, and the anticipation, however feeble, of that eternal issue which must follow the appearance of my own disembodied spirit, sinner that I am, in the presence of the God who made me, who has watched every

* "Let the land mourn through all its coasts," &c.; and
 "It is the LORD! Behold His hand," &c.—Original Hymns.

thought of my mind as it arose, and pursued it through all its consequences—these at times have made me exceedingly to tremble, and ask myself what will that issue be?

“But though the daily fear of death, in my best estate, is one of the crosses which I must bear to the end of life, I can say, to the glory of the grace of God, that hitherto it has not been made *much* heavier by the near prospect of its realisation.”

Eleven days afterwards he thus writes to the same correspondent:—

James Montgomery to Miss Rowntree.

“Sheffield, Sept. 12th, 1832.

“My dear Friend,

“I am happy to inform you that I can comparatively report ‘clean bills’ of our unfortunate town,—though I verily believe that which seems to justify such an ill-omened epithet has already proved one of the greatest means of grace and blessing to the inhabitants of Sheffield in the memory of man; and I am sure, if we make the right improvement of the providential visitation, thousands will be the better for it so long as they live, and their children after them for many generations. That it will be extensively so, I fear that I have too little faith even to say that I hope, unless a deeper and more abiding effect be produced than past experience warrants those who know something of the plague of their own hearts to expect. But the Lord’s purposes will be answered, and we must acquiesce in them, only giving all diligence to profit for ourselves, that we may not have been spared in vain,—or worse than in vain, if after all we perish; for then we shall be so far greater sinners than those that have fallen, when they were *not* sinners above us. Three weeks ago a day of humiliation was more solmenly observed here with outward show, and I believe with inward reality of self-abasement, repentance, and confession of sin, than I ever recollect during forty years’ residence in Sheffield. Be this as it may, the *fact is a fact* (I know not how more emphatically to express it) that thenceforward to this day the disease has been rebuked and gradually abating, the new cases being mitigated exceedingly on the average in their symptoms; and we have good hope that it will now please the Lord to withdraw His hand, which has been laid upon us rather with the *violence of mercy* than the rigour of vengeance. Your best friends, therefore,—your mother, your brother, and H. B. himself, I trust,—may safely commit you to breathe the atmosphere of Sheffield at this lucid interval.

Such I call it (though I pray that it may be an interval to the end of time), because in most great towns there has been a second harvest of death granted to this destroyer, when less discrimination has been shown between the suffering poor and the classes who have more abounded in the means of prevention and cure. I need not say, that I shall be sincerely glad to see you again, to whom I am indebted for so much kindness; and I can only lament that it is so little in my power to acknowledge it otherwise than in words. With best remembrance to your esteemed relatives,

"I am, truly, your obliged friend,

"J. Montgomery."

When the visitation was over, and a day of thanksgiving (Nov. 22nd) was ordered, the praises of the religious portion of his townspeople were uttered in the words* of the Sheffield poet.

The victims of the pestilence were buried about a mile out of the town, on a pleasant eminence since beautified by plantations and rendered more conspicuous by a lofty obelisk. This spot, unconsecrated by any rite except the reading of the ordinary service for "the burial of the dead," and the dust of the victims who were thus even "in death divided from their nearest kin," is celebrated by Montgomery in his lines entitled the "Cholera Mount."†

Dec. 11, 1834 (p. 108).—This day, the corner stone of the Monumental Cross on the Cholera Burial Ground, at Claywood, was laid in the presence of Michael Ellison Esq, as agent to the Duke of Norfolk, Mr M. E. Hadfield, the architect, and other persons, by Mr Montgomery, the Chairman of the late Board of Health, who, placing in the cavity prepared for it a glass bottle containing a particular record of the disease in 1832, said, "In the name of God our Father, of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour, and of the Holy Spirit, our Guide and Comforter,

* Original hymns, CCXCI and CCXCII.

Works, p. 337.

† In other places the ordinary community of sepulture was, in like manner, denied to the victims. The ground at York, which was set apart for their interment, contains a headstone in memory of Joseph Marsh, erected by his fellow-creatures of Lendal Chapel Sunday School, with the following lines from the pen of Montgomery:

"The bitterness of death is past,
Joy comes which shall for ever last
Happy the man, through fire or ice,
Who finds his way to Paradise;
This hath our fellow-soldier done
Sharp was the fight, but quickly won.
When the last enemy assailed,
Although the flesh was weak, and failed,
The spirit was willing, and prevailed.

I deposit this memorial of an awful visitation of sickness throughout this town and neighbourhood, which was accompanied, nevertheless, with many gracious manifestations of Divine mercy." At the close of the usual operations of lowering, levelling, and settling the stone, the architect said to Mr Montgomery, "I hope, sir, your work of this day will be permanent." He replied, "May it stand till the day of resurrection!" This monument, which terminates an avenue of trees in front of the Shrewsbury Hospital, and forms a very conspicuous feature in the scenery, consists of an elegant shaft, rising from a triangular base, and having a cruciform termination.*

In 1835 John Holland published a work, *Cruciana*, in which (pp. 247-248) there is the following description of the Cholera Monument:—

The elegant stone cross was only finished a few months since (May, 1835); it is therefore not only the most recent structure of the kind erected in this country, but probably the only one which of late years has sprung up in England. It stands about half a mile east of the town of Sheffield, on a conspicuous eminence, consecrated by the muse of Montgomery as the "Cholera Mount," being the spot where 400 of the victims of that terrible visitation were interred in the autumn of 1832. Upon the amiable bard just named, as having been the devoted chairman of the Board of Health at the fatal period alluded to, devolved the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the cross, which, on the 11th December, 1834, he performed; at the same time uttering these solemn words:—"In the name of God our Father, of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour, and of the Holy Spirit our Guide and Comforter, I deposit this memorial of an awful visitation of sickness throughout this town and neighbourhood, which was accompanied, nevertheless, with many gracious manifestations of Divine mercy." At the close of the usual operations, the young architect, Mr. M. E. Hadfield, said to Mr. Montgomery, "I hope, sir, your work of this day will be permanent"; to which he replied, "May it stand till the day of resurrection!" The shaft is triangular, diminishing in stories from the base to the summit, which is surmounted with a plain cross, forming, altogether, a picturesque and graceful object of contemplation, amidst the extended and beautiful scenery of the neighbourhood.

*In the hurricane of January 7. 1839, which otherwise did considerable damage in the neighbourhood, the upper portion of the shaft was blown down; it was soon afterwards restored. Montgomery has two sonnets, composed on visiting the scene of devastation.—*Works*, p. 339

Mr. Thomas Winder has kindly given the following details:—

Mr Charles Green says the Cholera Monument was built for Mr M. E. Hadfield (the architect) by Crowther, who personally laid each stone. When it was finished Crowther was told it was not straight, to which he replied "that was its beauty. Anyone could build a thing straight."

The images were carved by Earp and Hobbs, of Manchester, and, says Mr Green, "are pretty decent."

AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND SELECT REMAINS OF THE LATE SAMUEL ROBERTS. 1849.

THE state of the town relating to cleanliness may be inferred from the regulations respecting Barker Pool. This was an ancient reservoir of water situated in the highest part of the ground, called "Top-o'-t'-town." It was well walled round. In the event of a fire (happily a very rare one), the water on being let off could be directed to most parts of the town. The keeping of this reservoir in repair was one of the objects to which the funds of the town were directed to be applied. All the channels were then in the middle of the streets, which were generally in a very disorderly state, manure heaps often lying in them for a week together. About once every quarter, the water was let out of Barker Pool, to run down all those streets into which it could be turned, for the purpose of cleansing them. The bellman gave notice of the exact time, and the favoured streets were all bustle, with a row of men, women, and children, on each side of the channel, anxiously and joyfully awaiting, with mops, brooms, and pails, the arrival of the cleansing flood, whose first appearance was announced by a loud continuous shout; all below was anxious expectation—all above a most amusing scene of bustling animation. Some people were throwing the water up against their houses and windows; some raking the garbage into the kennel; some washing their pigs; some sweeping the pavement; youngsters throwing the waters over their companions, or pushing them into the widespread torrent. Meanwhile a constant Babel-like uproar, mixed with the barking of dogs and the grunting of pigs, was heard above and below, till the waters, after about half an hour, had become exhausted. Such was the mode in which the town was in those days kept clean.

There was a supply of water brought for about a mile to the town, but the quantity was small, pipes being laid in only a few of the principal streets. A receptacle was made for this in Townhead Street, from which it was the business of a number of men to take it in casks, fixed on the body of a wheelbarrow, holding about fifty gallons, to all parts of the town to sell. The facetious WATER ISAAC was one of these water-barrel men. Isaac was made very much in the shape of his barrel set on end. He was once slowly wending his way home on a pitchy dark night, along the Bull Stake, when his stout waterproof hat came into contact with the end of a bunch of iron which a man was carrying the contrary way on his shoulder. Isaac, being a little top-heavy, was thereby laid sprawling on his back. The man called out aloud, "Heigh, fellow there, take care!" "Why, what man, thou'rt not coming again, art thou?" was Isaac's calm inquiry. These watermen were generally rather *dry* fellows.

GREVILLE MEMOIRS. Vol. II, p. 57.

Nov. 11, 1830.—Yesterday the funds rose, and people's apprehensions began to subside. Everybody is occupied with speculating about the numbers on Tuesday next, and what majority the Ministers will get. Yesterday came a letter from Lord Heytesbury from St. Petersburg,* saying that there was reason to believe that the disorder now raging in Russia is a sort of plague, but that they will not admit it, and that it is impossible to get at the truth. We ordered Russian ships to be put under a precautionary quarantine, and made a minute to record what we had done.

June 19, 1831 (pp. 150-152).—The last few days I have been completely taken up with quarantine, and taking means to prevent the cholera coming here. That disease made great ravages in Russia last year, and in the winter the attention of Government was called to it, and the question was raised whether we should have to purify goods coming here in case it broke out again, and if so how it was to be done. Government was thinking of Reform and other matters, and would not bestow much attention upon this subject, and accordingly

*This is the first mention of the cholera morbus, or Asiatic cholera, then first appearing in Europe. The quarantine establishments are under the control of the Privy Council, and Mr. Greville, as Clerk of the Council, was actively employed in superintending them. A Board of Health was afterwards established at the Council Office during the prevalence of the cholera.

neither regulations nor preparations were made. All that was done was to commission a Dr. Walker, a physician residing at St. Petersburg, to go to Moscow and elsewhere and make enquiries into the nature and progress of the disease, and report the result of his investigation to us. He turned out, however, to be a very useless and inefficient agent. In the meantime as the warm weather returned the cholera again appeared in Russia, but still we took no further measures until intelligence arrived that it had reached Riga, at which place 700 or 800 sail of English vessels, loaded principally with hemp and flax, were waiting to come to this country. This report soon diffused a general alarm, and for many days past the newspapers have been full of letters and full of lies, and every sort of representation is made to Government or through the press, as fear or interest happen to dictate. The Consuls and Ministers abroad had been for some time supplying us with such information as they could obtain, so that we were in possession of a great deal of documentary evidence regarding the nature, character, and progress of the disease. The first thing we did was to issue two successive Orders in Council placing all vessels coming from the Baltic in quarantine, and we sent for Sir Henry Halford and placed all the papers we had in his hands, desiring that he would associate with himself some other practitioners, and report their opinion as speedily as possible whether the disease was contagious and whether it could be conveyed by goods. They reported the next day *yes* to the first question, *no* to the second. In 1804, on the occasion of the yellow fever at Gibraltar, Government formed a Board of Health, and took the opinion of the College of Physicians, and it was intended to pursue the same course in this instance, but Lords Lansdowne and Auckland chose to take Halford's preliminary opinion, contrary to my advice, for I foresaw that there would be a great embarrassment if he and the College did not agree. Just so it turned out, for when the case was submitted, with all the papers, to the College, they would not adopt his opinion, much to his annoyance and, as I believe, because they did not like to be merely called on to confirm what he had already said, and that they thought their independence required a show of dissent. The report they sent was very short and very unsatisfactory, and entirely against all the evidence they had before them; they advised precautionary measures. I immediately wrote back an answer saying that their report was not satisfactory and desiring a more detailed opinion and the reasons which had dictated their conclusion; but in the meantime we set to work in earnest to adopt measures against any emergency.

The only way of performing quarantine (with goods), it was found, would be by the employment of men of war, and we accordingly asked the Admiralty to supply ships for the purpose. This Lord Grey, Sir James Graham, and Sir Byam Martin objected to, but Sir Thomas Hardy and Captain Elliot did not. We proved that the ships would sustain no injury, so after a battle they agreed to give them. We made a variety of regulations, and gave strict orders for the performance of quarantine, and to-morrow a proclamation is to be issued for constituting a Board of Health and enjoining obedience to the quarantine laws, so that everything has been done that can be done, and if the cholera comes here it is not our fault. Most of the authorities think it will come, but I doubt it. If indeed it is wafted through the air it may, but I don't think it will if it is only to be communicated by contact. All the evidence proves that goods cannot convey it; nevertheless we have placed merchandise under a discretionary quarantine, and though we have not promulgated any general regulations, we release no vessels that come from infected places, or that have got enumerated goods on board. Poulett Thomson, who is a trader as well as Privy Councillor, is very much disgusted in his former capacity at the measures he is obliged to concur in in his latter. This topic has now occupied for some days a good deal of the attention even of the fine fools of this town, and the Tories would even make it a matter of party accusation against the Government, only they don't know exactly how. It is always safe to deal in generalities, so they say that "Government ought to be impeached if the disease comes here."

June 23, 1831 (p. 154).—News came the day before yesterday that Marshal Diebitsch had died of the cholera. It was suspected that he had made away with himself, for he has failed so signally in his campaign against the Poles that his military reputation is tarnished; and it is known that his recall had been decreed, and that Count Paskiewitch was to succeed him. The alarm about the cholera still continues, but the Government are thrown into great perplexity by the danger on one hand of the cholera and the loss of trade on the other. A Board of Health has been formed, composed of certain members of the College of Physicians, Sir William Pym, Sir William Burnet, Sir Byam Martin, Sir James M'Grigor, and Mr. Stewart; and they in their first sitting advised that all the precautions established by our Orders in Council against the Plague should be adopted against the cholera. This opinion was given under the authority of Dr. Warren, who, it appears, exercises the same ascendancy in this Board that he had previously done

in the College of Physicians on the same subject. The fact is that he takes the safe side. They have nothing to do with trade and commerce, which must shift for themselves, and probably the other members will not take upon themselves the responsibility of opposing measures which, if the disease ever appears here, and should they be relaxed will expose the physicians to the odium and reproach of having been instrumental to its introduction. We, however (Auckland, Poulett Thomson, and I), are resolved to make the Cabinet take upon themselves the responsibility of framing the permanent rules which are to guide us during the continuance of the malady. It is remarkable that there never was more sickness than there is at present, without its being epidemic, but thousands of colds, sore throats, fevers, and such like; and a man at Blackwell has died of the English cholera, and another is ill of it, but their disorders seem to have nothing to do with the Indian cholera, though some of the symptoms are similar. These men cannot have got their cholera from Russia, but their cases spread alarm.

July 8, 1831 (p. 156).—People are beginning to recover from their terror of the cholera, seeing that it does not come, and we are now beset with alarms of a different kind, which are those of the Scotch merchants for their cargoes. We have a most disagreeable business on our hands, very troublesome, odious and expensive. The public requires that we should take care of its health, the mercantile world that we should not injure their trade. All evidence proves that goods are not capable of bringing in the disorder, but we have appointed a Board of Health, which is contagionist, and we can't get them to subscribe to that opinion. We dare not act without its sanction, and so we are obliged to air goods. This airing requires more ships and lazarets than we have, and the result is a perpetual squabbling, disputing and complaining between the Privy Council, the Admiralty, the Board of Health, and the merchants. We have gone on pretty well hitherto, but more ships arrive every day; the complaints will grow louder, and the disease rather spreads than diminishes on the continent. This cholera has afforded strong proof of the partiality of the Prussians in the contest between the Russians and the Poles.

July 13, 1831 (p. 161).—There is a fresh access of alarm on account of the cholera, which has broken out at St. Petersburg, and will probably spread over Germany. The cordon of troops which kept it off last year from St. Petersburg appears to have been withdrawn, which is no doubt the cause of its appearance there. We have constant reports of supposed

cases of disease and death, but up to this period it does not appear to have shown itself here, though a case was transmitted to us from Glasgow exceedingly like it. The sick man had not come from any infected place. The Board of Health are, however, in great alarm, and the authorities generally think we shall have it. From all I can observe from the facts of the case I am convinced that the liability to contagion is greatly diminished by the influence of sea air, for which reason I doubt that it will be brought here across the water. If it does come it will pass through France first. The King of Prussia has at last insisted upon a rigid execution of the quarantine laws in his dominions. Marshal Paskiewitch was detained on his road to take the command of the army, and sent a courier to the King to request he might be released forthwith, urging the importance of the Emperor to have his report of the state of the army; but the King refused and sent word that the Emperor himself had submitted to quarantine, and so his aide-de-camp might do the same.

July 26, 1831 (p. 169).—Fresh claims have been raised about cholera morbus. A man at Port Glasgow insists upon it, without much apparent reason, that it prevails there; so we have sent a medical man down, in order to quiet people's minds and to set the question at rest. Lord Grey, who is credulous, believes the Glasgow man's story, and spread the news in his own family, who immediately dispersed it over the rest of the town, and yesterday nobody could talk of anything else; not believing it very much, and not understanding it at all, for if they did they would not be so flippant. Lady Holland wrote to Lord Lansdowne to desire he would recommend her the best *cholera* doctor that he had heard of.

Sept. 17, 1831 (p. 193).—The cholera has got to Berlin, and Warsaw is taken by the Russians, who appear to have behaved with moderation. Since the deposition of Skrznecki, and the reign of clubs and mobs and the perpetration of massacres at Warsaw, the public sympathy for the Poles has a good deal fallen off. The cholera, which is travelling south, is less violent than it was in the north. It is remarkable that the common people at Berlin are impressed with the same strange belief that possessed those at St. Petersburg that they had been poisoned, and Chad writes to-day that they believe there is no such disease, and that the deaths ascribed to that malady are produced by poison administered by the doctors, who are bribed for that purpose; that the rich finding the poor becoming too numerous to be conveniently governed, have

adopted this mode of thinning the population, which was employed with success by the English in India; that the foreign doctors are the delegates of a central committee, which is formed in London and directs the proceedings, and similar nonsense.

Nov. 11, 1831 (p. 208).—Came to town on Tuesday last (the 8th) on account of the cholera, which has broken out at Sunderland.

Nov. 11, 1831 (p. 209).—Nothing was wanting to complete our situation but the addition of physical evil to our moral plague, and that is come in the shape of the cholera, which broke out at Sunderland a few days ago. To meet the exigency Government has formed another Board of Health, but without dissolving the first, though the second is intended to swallow up the first and leave it a mere nullity. Lord Lansdowne, who is President of the Council, an office which for once promises not to be a sinecure, has taken the opportunity to go to Bowood, and having come up (sent for express) on account of the cholera the day it was officially declared really to be that disease, he has trotted back to his house in the country.

Nov. 14, 1831 (p. 210).—For the last two or three days the reports from Sunderland about the cholera have been of a doubtful character. The disease makes so little progress that the doctors begin again to doubt whether it is the Indian cholera, and the merchants, shipowners, and inhabitants, who suffer from the restraints imposed upon an infected place, are loudly complaining of the measures which have been adopted, and strenuously insisting that their town is in a more healthy state than usual, and that the disease is no more than what it always is visited with every year at this season. In the meantime all preparations are going on in London just as if the disorder was actually on its way to the metropolis. We have a Board at the Council Office, between which and the Board at the College some civilities have passed, and the latter is now ready to yield up its functions to the former, which, however, will not be regularly constituted without much difficulty and many jealousies, all owing to official carelessness and the mismanagement. The Board has been diligently employed in drawing up suggestions and instructions to local boards and parochial authorities, and great activity has prevailed here in establishing committees for the purpose of visiting the different districts of the metropolis, and making such arrangements as may be necessary in the event of sickness breaking out. There is no lack of money or labour for this end, and one great good will be accomplished let what will happen, for much of the filth and misery

of the town will be brought to light, and the condition of the poor and more wretched of the inhabitants can hardly fail to be ameliorated. The reports from Sunderland exhibit a state of human misery, and more necessarily of moral degradation, such as I hardly ever heard of, and it is no wonder, when a great part of the community is plunged into such a condition (and we may fairly suppose that there is a gradually mounting scale, with every degree of wretchedness up to the wealth and splendour which glitter on the surface of society), that there should be so many who are ripe for any desperate scheme of revolution. At Sunderland they say there are houses with 150 inmates, who are huddled five and six in a bed.

Nov. 22, 1831 (p. 216).—The cholera, which is going on (but without greatly extending itself) at Sunderland, has excited an unusual alarm, but it is now beginning to subside. People seeing that it does not appear elsewhere take courage, but the preparations are not relaxed, and they are constantly enforced by the Central Board of Health (as it is called), which is established at the Council Office, and labours very assiduously in the cause. Undoubtedly a great deal of good will be done in the way of purification. As to the disorder, if it had not the name of cholera nobody would be alarmed, for many an epidemic has prevailed at different times far more fatal than this. On Friday last we despatched Dr. Barry down to Sunderland with very ample powers, and to procure information, which it is very difficult to get. Nothing can be more disgraceful than the state of that town, exhibiting a lamentable proof of the practical inutility of that diffusion of knowledge and education which we boast of, and which we fancy renders us so morally and intellectually superior to the rest of the world. When Dr. Russell was in Russia, he was disgusted with the violence and prejudices he found there on the path of both medical men and the people, and he says he finds just as much here. The conduct of the people of Sunderland on this occasion is more suitable to the barbarism of the interior of Africa than to a town in a civilised country. The medical men and the higher classes are split into parties, quarrelling about the nature of the disease, and the perverting and concealing facts which militate against their respective theories. The people are taught to believe that there is really no cholera at all, and that those who say so intend to plunder and murder them. The consequence is prodigious irritation and excitement, and invincible repugnance on the part of the lower orders to avail themselves of any of the preparations

which are made for curing them, and a proneness to believe any reports, however monstrous and exaggerated. In a very curious letter which was received yesterday from Dr. Daur, he says (after complaining of the medical men, who would send him no returns of the cases of sickness) it was believed that the bodies had been dissected before the life was out of them, and one woman was said to have been cut up while she was begging to be spared. The consequence of this was that we have put forth a strong order to compel medical men to give information, and another for the compulsory removal of nuisances. It is, however, rather amusing that everybody who has got in their vicinity anything disagreeable, or that they would like to be rid of, thinks that now is their time, and the table of the Board of Health is covered with applications of this nature, from every variety of person and place.

Nov. 23, 1831.—Dr. Barry's first letter from Sunderland came yesterday, in which he declares the identity of the disease with the cholera they have seen in Russia. He describes some cases he has visited, exhibiting scenes of misery and poverty far exceeding what one could have believed it possible to find in this country; but we who float on the surface of society know but little of the privations and sufferings which pervade the mass. I wrote to the Bishop of Durham, to the chief magistrates, and sent down £200 to Colonel Creagh (which Althorp immediately advanced) to relieve the immediate and pressing cases of distress.

Jan. 25, 1832 (p. 240).—News came yesterday that the cholera had got within three miles of Edinburgh, and to show the fallacy of any theory about it, and the inutility of the prescribed precautions, at one place (Newport, I think) one person in five of the whole population was attacked, though there was no lack of diet, warmth, and clothing for the poor. This disease escapes from all speculation, so partial and eccentric is its character.

Feb. 14, 1832 (p. 258).—In the meantime the cholera has made its appearance in London, at Rotherhithe, Limehouse, and in a ship off Greenwich—in all seven cases. These are amongst the lowest and most wretched classes, chiefly Irish, and a more lamentable exhibition of human misery than that given by the medical men who called at the Council Office yesterday I never heard. They are in the most abject state of poverty, without beds to lie upon. The men live by casual labour, are employed by the hour, and often get no more than four or

five hours' employment in the course of the week. They are huddled and crowded together by families in the same room, not as permanent lodgers, but procuring a temporary shelter; in short, in the most abject state of physical privation and moral degradation that can be imagined. On Saturday we had an account of one or more cases. We sent instantly down to inspect the district and organise a Board of Health. A meeting was convened, and promises given that all things needful should be done, but as they met at a public-house they all got drunk and did nothing. We have sent down members of the Board of Health to make preparations and organise boards; but, if the disease really spreads, no human power can arrest its progress through such an Augean stable.

Feb. 17, 1832 (p. 261).—The cholera has produced more alertness than alarm here; in fact, at present it is a mere trifle—in three days twenty-eight persons. Nothing like the disorders which rage unheeded every year and every day among the lower orders. It is its name, its suddenness, and its frightful symptoms that terrify. The investigations, however, into the condition of the different parishes have brought to light dreadful cases of poverty and misery. A man came yesterday from Bethnal Green with an account of that district. They are all weavers, forming a sort of separate community; there they are born, there they live and labour, and there they die. They neither migrate nor change their occupation; they can do nothing else. They have increased in a ratio at variance with any principles of population, having nearly tripled in twenty years, from 22,000 to 62,000. They are for the most part out of employment, and can get none; 1,100 are crammed into a poor-house, five or six in a bed; 6,000 receive parochial relief. The parish is in debt; every day adds to the number of paupers and diminishes that of ratepayers. These are principally small shopkeepers, who are beggared by the rates. The district is in a complete state of insolvency and hopeless poverty, yet they multiply, and while the people look squalid and dejected, as if borne down by their wretchedness and destitution, the children thrive and are healthy. Government is ready to interpose with assistance, but what can Government do? We asked the man who came what could be done for them. He said 'employment,' and employment is impossible.

April 1, 1832 (pp. 278-279).—I have refrained for a long time from writing down anything about the cholera, because the subject is intolerably disgusting to me, and I have been bored past endurance by the

perpetual questions of every fool about it. It is not, however, devoid of interest. In the first place, what has happened here proves that 'the people' of this enlightened, reading, thinking, reforming nation are not a whit less barbarous than the serfs in Russia, for precisely the same prejudices have been shown here that were found at St. Petersburg and at Berlin. The disease has undoubtedly appeared (hitherto) in this country in a milder shape than elsewhere, but the alarm at its name was so great that the Government could do no otherwise than take such precautions and means of safety as appeared best to avert the danger or mitigate its consequences. Here it came, and the immediate effect was a great inconvenience to trade and commerce, owing to restrictions, both those imposed by foreigners generally on this country and those we imposed ourselves between the healthy and unhealthy places. This begot complaints and disputes, and professional prejudices and jealousies urged a host of combatants into the field, to fight about the existence or non-existence of cholera, its contagiousness, and any collateral question. The disposition of the public was (and is) to believe that the whole thing was a humbug, and accordingly plenty of people were found to write in that sense, and the press lent itself to propagate the same idea. The disease, however, kept creeping on, the Boards of Health which were everywhere established immediately became odious, and the vestries and parishes stoutly resisted all pecuniary demands for the purpose of carrying into effect the recommendations of the Central Board or the Orders of the Privy Council. In this town the mob has taken the part of the anti-cholerites, and the most disgraceful scenes have occurred. The other day a Mr. Pope, head of the hospital in Marylebone (Cholera Hospital) came to the Council Office to complain that a patient who was being removed with his own consent had been taken out of his chair by the mob and carried back, the chair broken, and the bearers and surgeon hardly escaping with their lives. Furious contests have taken place about the burials, it having been recommended that bodies should be burned directly after death, and the most violent prejudice opposing itself to this recommendation; in short, there is no end to the scenes of uproar, violence, and brutal ignorance that have gone on, and this on the part of the lower orders, for whose especial benefit all the precautions are taken, and for whose relief large sums have been raised, and all the resources of charity called into activity in every part of the town. The awful thing is the vast extent of misery and distress which prevails, and the evidence of the rotten foundation on which the whole fabric of this

gorgeous society rests, for I call that rotten which exhibits thousands upon thousands of human beings reduced to the lowest stage of moral and physical degradation, with no more of the necessities of life than serve to keep body and soul together, whole classes of artisans without the means of subsistence. However complicated and remote the causes of this state of things, the manifestations present themselves in a frightful presence and reality, and those whose ingenuity, and experience, and philosophical views may enable them accurately to point out the causes and the gradual increase of this distress are totally unable to suggest a remedy or to foresee an end to it. Can such a state of things permanently go on? Can any reform ameliorate it? Is it possible for any country to be considered in a healthy condition where there is no such thing as a *general* diffusion of the comforts of life (varying of course with every variety of circumstance which can affect the prosperity of individuals or of classes), but when the extremes prevail of the most unbounded luxury and enjoyment and the most dreadful privation and suffering? To imagine a state of society in which everybody should be well off, or even tolerably well off, would be a mere vision, as long as there is a preponderance of vice and folly in the world. There will always be effects commensurate with their causes, but it has not always been, and it certainly need not be, that the majority of the population should be in great difficulty, struggling to keep themselves afloat, and, what is worse, in uncertainty and in doubt whether they can earn subsistence for themselves and families. Such is the case at present, and I believe a general uncertainty pervades every class of society, from the highest to the lowest; nobody looks upon any institution as secure, or any interest as safe, and it is only because those universal feelings of alarm which are equally diffused throughout the mass but slightly affect each individual atom of it that we see the world go on as usual, eating, drinking, laughing, and dancing, and not insensible to the danger, though apparently indifferent about it.

July 12, 1832 (p. 309).—O'Connell is supposed to be horribly afraid of the cholera. He has dodged about between London and Dublin, as the disease appeared first at one and then the other place, and now that it is everywhere he shirks the House of Commons from fear of the heat and the atmosphere. The cholera is here, and diffuses a certain degree of alarm. Some servants of people well known have died, and that frightens all the other servants out of their wits and they frighten their masters; the death of any one person they are acquainted with

terrifies people much more than that of twenty of whom they knew nothing. As long as they read daily returns of a parcel of deaths here and there of A., B., and C. they do not mind, but when they hear that Lady such a one's nurse or Sir somebody's footman is dead, they fancy they see the disease actually at their own door.

July 25, 1832 (p. 311).—Nothing of moment has occurred lately; the dread of cholera absorbs everybody. Mrs. Smith, young and beautiful, was dressed to go to church on Sunday morning, when she was seized with the disorder, never had a chance of rallying, and died at eleven at night. This event, shocking enough in itself from its suddenness and the youth and beauty of the person, has created a terrible alarm; many people have taken flight, and others are suspended between their hopes of safety in country air and their dread of being removed from metropolitan aid. The disease spreads gradually in all directions in town and country, but without appearing like an epidemic; it is scattered and uncertain; it brings to light horrible distress. We, who live on the smooth and plausible surface, know little of the frightful appearance of the bowels of society.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

HUGH PARKER, of Woodthorp, was a J.P. and a wealthy banker.

Rev. THOMAS SUTTON was Vicar of Sheffield. At this time he lived at Greystones.

THOMAS DUNN, 1801-1871, lived at 60 Solly Street. He was the second Mayor of Sheffield, and was a colliery owner.

SAMUEL REVILL (spelt Revell in the directory of 1833) was a sugar refiner, of 37 Norfolk Street and Cricket Inn Lane.

SAMUEL BAILEY, 1791-1870, of Burngreave, Occupation Rd., was a merchant, and wrote various philosophical works.

WM. YOUNGE, M.D., 1762-1838, of 43 Church Street, was physician to the Infirmary. In 1787 he issued the appeal which led to the establishment of the Infirmary.

CORDEN THOMPSON, M.D., 1793-1876, of 35 Norfolk Street, was physician to the Infirmary.

JONATHAN MARSHALL in the 1833 Directory is described as Gentleman, 76 Pye Bank. He made a lot of money in the steel trade.

EDWARD SMITH, 1800-1868, Steel roller, of Firs vale. A Quaker, and one of the foremost public men in the town.

WILLIAM HARGREAVES, merchant, of Brook hill.

HENRY BOULTBEE, surgeon, of 11 Milk Street.

WILLIAM JOHN BAGSHAW, J.P., of the Oaks, Norton. He was a magistrate of the West Riding of Yorkshire and also of Derbyshire. He was chairman of the Ecclesall Board of Guardians from its formation in 1837 up to his death in 1851.

JOHN BLAKE, of Upperthorpe, filemaker, died of Cholera in the last week of his year of office as Master Cutler, Aug. 31, 1832 (see p. —).

THOMAS ELLIN, cutlery manufacturer, of Brincliffe Edge.

THOMAS ASLINE WARD, 1781-1871, merchant and manufacturer, of Park House. A prominent local politician and leader.

MICHAEL ELLISON, 1787-1861, of the Farm, Park, was agent of the Sheffield estates of the Duke of Norfolk.

ARNOLD JAMES KNIGHT, 1789-1871, M.D., of 1 Norfolk Row, was physician to the Infirmary. He was knighted in 1841.

JAMES MONTGOMERY, 1771-1854, in 1833 Directory described as gentleman, Hartshead. He is now forgotten as a poet but some of his hymns still survive. He devoted his life to the service of humanity; his work lives after him and is his best memorial.

CHARLES BROOKFIELD, solicitor, of Southbourne.

SAMUEL ROBERTS, silver plate manufacturer, of Park Grange, was probably the leading man in the town.

CLAY BACON was a typefounder, and lived at Fernley Place, Glossop Road.

Colonel FRANCIS FENTON was the head of the local police, and lived at Wood-hill, Occupation Road.

ALBERT SMITH, solicitor and magistrates' clerk, 10 Castle Street; he had a house in Castle Street and at Dore.

In 1825 there was published an anonymous pamphlet:—

A LETTER TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE COURT
OF REQUESTS FOR THE MANOR OF SHEFFIELD ON
THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LATE GENERAL MEETING
OF THAT BODY HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD, 1825.

BY A COMMISSIONER.

*“Secresy in Public Trusts is always either the Parent or
Offspring of Mismanagement, if not of Peculation.”*

SHEFFIELD: Printed and sold by J. BLACKWELL, 48 High Street; sold
also by the rest of the Booksellers in Sheffield.

1825.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

This contains a long attack on the methods of the Court, and the difficulty of getting any alteration in them. On page 11 occurs this instructive comment:—

“Now, how shall we account for all these extraordinary things? The government of this town appears to me to be in the hands of some six or eight respectable families, united by marriages, inter-marriages, and intimate connections, into what may be called a Family Compact, or, perhaps, a Holy Alliance, always able, by their united efforts, to overturn or overbear all measures or individuals opposed to the interests of any member of this self-incorporated body. They are likewise able to carry any measure which they are determined to promote. The ramifications of their influence penetrates every avenue of the town, and can secure the co-operation, when required, of all whom they employ, from the opulent banker, to the most despised and oppressed of the human race, the wretched substitute for a sweeping-machine.”

ORIGINAL HYMNS, &c.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

HYMN 289.

For a day of humiliation during the prevalence of the Cholera.

Let the land mourn through all its coasts,
The king lay by his state;
Princes and rulers at their posts,
Awhile sit desolate.

Let priests and people, high and low,
Rich, poor and great and small,
Invoke in fellowship of woe,
The Maker of them all.

For God hath summoned from his place
Death in a direr form,
To waken, warn and scourge our race
Than earthquake, fire or storm.

Let churches weep within their pale
And families apart;
Let each in secrecy bewail
The plague of his own heart.

So, while the land bemoans its sin(s),
The pestilence may cease,
And mercy tempering wrath bring in
Not health alone, but peace:—

The peace of God, which passeth thought,
Keep every heart and mind,
We all, by this affliction taught,
Be to his will resigned.

HYMN 290.

During the Cholera—Confession and Supplication.

It is the Lord!—Behold His hand
Outstretched with an afflictive rod;
And hark! a voice goes through the land,
“Be still and know that I am God.”

Shall we, like guilty Adam, hide
In darkest shades our darkest fears?
For who His coming may abide?
Or who shall stand when He appears?

No,—let us throng around His seat,
 No,—let us meet Him face to face,
 Prostrate our spirits at His feet,
 Confess our sins and sue for peace.

Who knows but God will hear our cries,
 Turn swift destruction from our path,
 Restrain His judgments, or chastise
 In tender mercy, not in wrath?

He will, He will, for Jesus pleads;
 Let heaven and earth His love record,
 For us, for us He intercedes;
 Our help is might;—it is the Lord!

Into His hands then let us fall,
 Come health on sickness, life on death:
 Whether he send us balm for gall
 Or immortality for breath.

HYMN 291.

Thanksgiving for deliverance from the Cholera.

Walking on the wingèd wind,
 Fear before him, Death behind;
 When the Lord came down in wrath,
 Clouds and darkness girt his path.

Thence abroad his arrows flew,
 Thick and fast they smote and slew;
 We in dust and ashes lay,
 None could help,—but all could pray.

Fervent prayer had power with God,
 Caught the lightnings on its rod;
 Faith and Hope, amidst our bands,
 Holding up its weary hands.

Prayer prevailed amidst despair,
 God delights to honour prayer;
 Judgment laid its terror by,
 Mercy beamed o'er earth and sky.

Now be sorrow turned to song,
 Let the bruised reed grow strong;
 Smoking flax break forth and blaze,
 Prayer transform itself to praise.

Let the living now record
 All the goodness of the Lord;
 Him let the redeemed adore,
 Go in peace and sin no more.

HYMN 292.

Thanksgiving for the removal of the Cholera from Sheffield, 1832.

Sing Hallelujah! sing
Glory to God alone!
Bring your oblations, bring
Thank-offerings to the throne!
Take words of joy, of comfort take,
Awake to love, to life awake.

The Lord put forth His hand,
He touch'd us and we died;
Vengeance went through the land,
But mercy walked beside;
He heard our prayers; He saw our tears,
And stayed the plague, and quell'd our fears.

What shall we give to Thee?
O Thou, whose purer eyes
Behold iniquity
In man's best sacrifice?
Ourselves we give, but rest our claim
On Christ, and know none other Name.

For Jesus' sake, forgive
Thy people, Lord, and spare,
To Him and Thee to live,
For Thine and His we are;
Thy quickening Spirit gave us breath,
Thy Son, by death, has conquered death.

POEMS OR AMUSEMENTS IN RHYME,

Written at various periods between the years 1815 and 1845,

By PAUL RODGERS.

(1845)

ON THE APPROACH OF THE CHOLERA MORBUS.

Written July, 1831.

Oh, Britain! pride and wonder of the earth;
On thy tall cliffs a sound is heard from far;
Cease from thy revels and untimely mirth,
God comes in His own dreadful Judgment Car!

When kingdoms round thee trembled to their base;
When mightiest monarchs from their thrones were hurled;
Jehovah's favour was Thy resting-place;
Thou heard'st, unmoved, Heaven's thunder shake the world.

Yet, Queen of Isles, when late thy wintry nights
Glared ominous from out the arctic sky,*
Did no misgivings damp thy vain delights,
Nor wholesome fear forbode destruction nigh?

Sin unrepented taints thee to the core,
Degrading guilt thy haughty brow defiles,
Too oft, at home, oppression grinds thy poor,
And the gall'd slave groans in the Western Isles.

Hark! from the North, the pestilential blast
Sweeps o'er the nations, prostrate with their fear;
At its approach pale nature shrieks aghast,
And death and silence close its dread career.

Bow then thy head in dust,—put sackcloth on;
The vengeance strikes but at Heaven's sov'reign will;
God reigns on high; beseech His righteous throne,
Repent! Justice appeased may spare thee still.

* The Northern Lights; very conspicuous during the preceding winter.

THE HAPPY ISLE, AND OTHER POEMS.

By MARY HUTTON (1836).

ON THE CHOLERA PESTILENCE.

Our own dear homes are lonely now!
 Our hearths are desolate!
 No cheerful smiles with friendly glow
 With welcome on us wait.

No kindly, sweet domestic joys,
 So beautiful and bright,
 Can wake our hearts to pleasure now,
 Or soothe fell sorrow's blight.

For keen has been the deathly storm
 That has blown across our land,
 And many a fair and lovely form
 Has felt its burning brand.

Whilst hearts at noon, alive with glee,
 At evening-tide have died;
 And that dread word—eternity,
 Has knelled on every side.

As solemnly the death-cart wheels
 Its melancholy way,
 The stoutest heart sore trembling feels,
 And quakes with sad dismay.

Each guilty sinner asks with fear,
 Thou Great Supreme, shall I,
 Be laid within that sable bier
 Ere another hour pass by?

Life—life, is grown both dark and drear,
 The earth is fill'd with gloom,
 At every step we meet a bier
 Slow wheeling to the tomb;—

That nameless tomb where hundreds lie
 In one commingled heap—
 Where few of all the passers-by
 Dare pause awhile to weep.

How vacant now each sorrowing home!
 How dark is the distress!
 For a darkening cloud of sable gloom
 Has veiled our happiness—

* * * *

And thus it is with human life,
 We lesser ails pass by,
 Which, though they drain the springs of life,
 Scarce drain the careless eye.

ETYMOLOGY OF THE NAME CHOLERA.

The etymology of the name Cholera is disputed. It may be derived :—

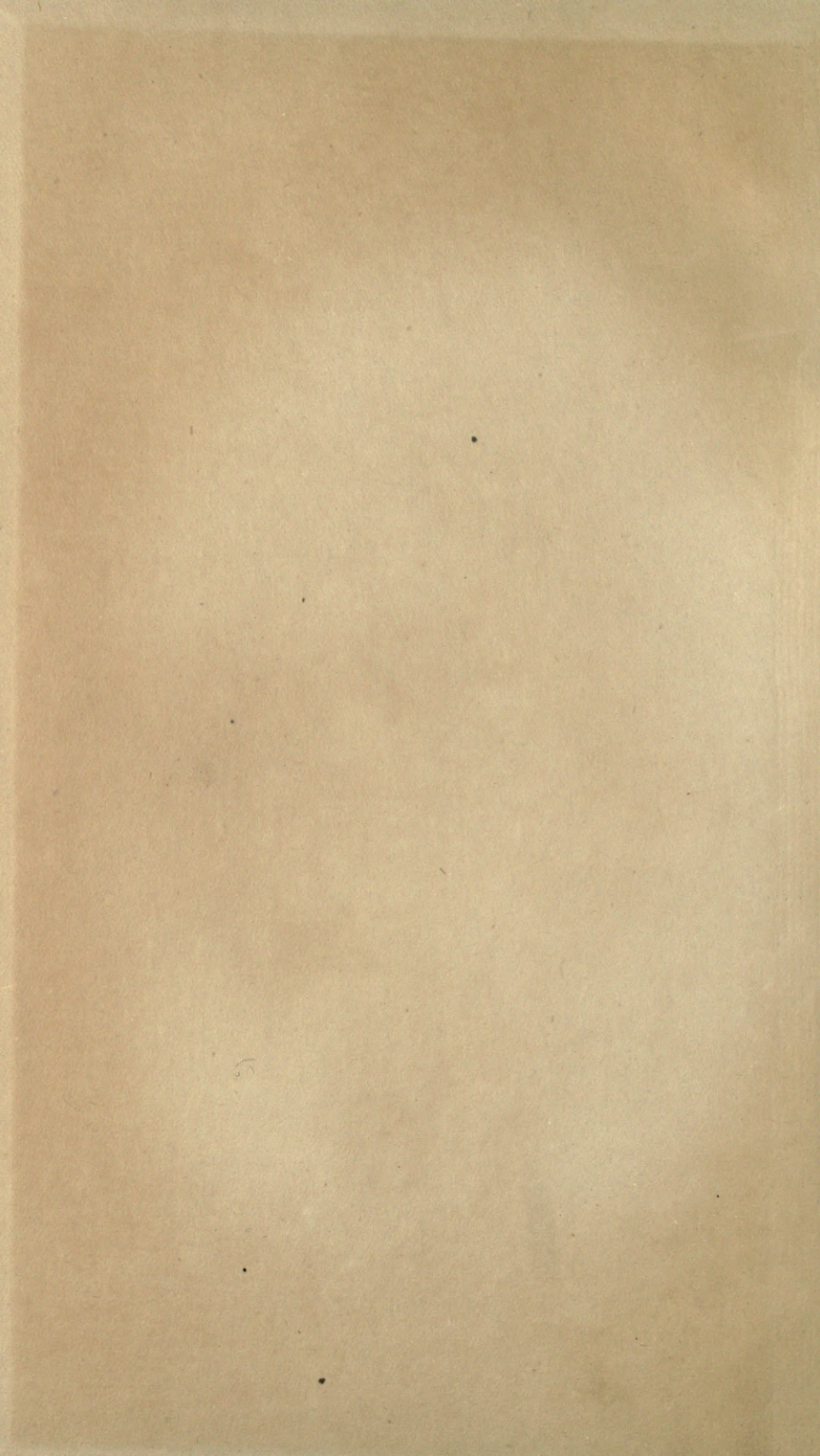
1. From the Greek χολή, bile; ῥέω, to flow.
2. From the Greek χολέρα, a spout.
3. From the Hebrew Choli-ra, which means a severe illness.

(I have an interesting pamphlet, entitled “Discours Academique sur le mot Colera,” written by the Rev. E. H. Smith, who lived at Caen (n.d.) upholding the Hebrew derivation, with a wealth of biblical illustration.)

The general opinion leans towards the first derivation. As a label this is singularly incorrect as applied to Asiatic Cholera, because in this disease the flow of bile is suppressed. The name, however, has come into universal use, and is no more and no less inaccurate than many other medical terms. The French medical men, at the time of the first epidemic, proposed the word Acholie (Achoia) meaning suppression of the biliary secretion from the Greek α privative and χολή as being more appropriate, but the older name had got too well established in the public mind to be replaced.

PRINTED BY
J. W. NORTHEND LTD., WEST STREET,
SHEFFIELD,

PRINTED BY
J. W. NORTHEND LTD., WEST STREET,
SHEFFIELD,



UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



A 000 091 534 8

